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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 6 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

ASSEMBLY RESULTS 2026

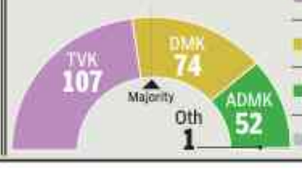
RESULTS TILL MONDAY 11.30 PM

WEST BENGAL | 293

Seats (Vote Share %)

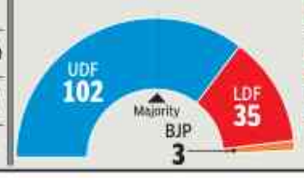
Party	2026	2021
BJP	206 (45.8)	77 (38.0)
TMC	81 (40.8)	215 (48.0)
Others	6 (13.4)	2 (14)

TAMIL NADU | 234



Party	2026	2021
TVK	107 (34.9)	0 (0)
DMK+	74 (30.2)	155 (43.9)
ADMK+	52 (27.1)	75 (39.7)
Others	1 (7.6)	4 (16.3)

KERALA | 140



Party	2026	2021
UDF	102 (47.2)	40 (38.2)
LDF	35 (33.8)	94 (41.3)
BJP+	3 (14.2)	0 (12.4)
Oth	0 (4.9)	6 (8.1)

ASSAM | 126

Party	2026	2021
BJP+	102 (50.3)	70(40.0)
Cong+	21 (35.7)	46 (40.1)
Others	3 (14.0)	10 (19.9)

■ Saffron Swathe Spreads, INDIA Blocked As 3 Oppn Titans Fall ■ Joseph Beats Stalin, Another Superstar Is Born In TN Politics

BJP Is Bengal Janata's Party

Vijay Divas In TN, Keralove For Cong

THE BIG NUMBERS

5 percentage point difference in vote share between BJP and TMC in Bengal. Five years ago, when the results were almost a mirror image (TMC 215, BJP 77), the gap was 10 percentage points

107 seats won collectively by DMK and AIADMK. The last time the Dravidian parties got less was in 1962, when DMK won 50. AIADMK did not exist at the time

0 number of Muslim MLAs among the 102 for the governing alliance in Assam. In the clearest sign of polarisation in the state, 22 of the 24 opposition MLAs are Muslims. In West Bengal too, all non-BJP, non-TMC MLAs are Muslims

0 to 206 seats in 15 years, won by BJP in Bengal

35% Vote share of Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam on debut, just a little over 2 years after it was founded

107 on debut TVK's performance in terms of seats is second only to NT Rama Rao's TDP in 1983—winning 201 of 294 seats within nine months of formation in Andhra Pradesh

JHALMURI POLLPOURRI

VIJAY'S DRIVER'S SON WINS, 'AUTOWALLAH' BEATS EX-MIN

RSabarinathan, the 30-year-old son of Vijay's long-time driver and PA Rajendran, won Virugampakkam in Chennai by 27,086 votes. Sabarinathan was among the most talked-about candidates in TN after a video of him breaking down on stage went viral shortly after his name figured among TVK's list of candidates.

In another striking victory, TVK candidate Vijay Dhamu, an auto driver, won Royapuram in North Chennai, defeating AIADMK strongman and former minister D Jayakumar, and DMK's Subair Khan, son of a former minister.

TASTE OF VICTORY: PUFFED RICE, WITH PLENTY OF SPICE

After PM Modi's halt for jhalmuri (spicy puffed rice snack) at a local shop in Jhargram during the Bengal campaign, BJP's victory in the state was celebrated with jhalmuri all over the country. Maharashtra deputy CM Eknath Shinde said BJP had made Mamata 'didi' taste the 'jhalmuri' of defeat. The snack, whose name derives from the Bengali word 'jhal', meaning spicy or hot, became a metaphor in the campaign, symbolising both the intensity of the political contest and regional identity. During an election rally, Modi remarked, "I ate jhalmuri, but TMC felt the jhal (spice)."

RG KAR VICTIM'S MOTHER WINS PANIHATI FOR BJP

Winning BJP candidate from Panihati Ratna Debnath, whose daughter, a resident doctor at RG Kar Medical College, was raped and murdered on the hospital premises in 2024, termed the elections "a fight for justice". "My daughter is no longer just mine; the whole world is looking at Panihati. My daughter will surely make the lotus bloom in all of Bengal... This fight will not stop here," she said.

JACKPOT! 3 OF MARTIN FAMILY WIN ACROSS 3 PARTIES

Three members of lottery king Santiago Martin's family won in these elections: wife Leema Rose Martin for AIADMK in TN's Lalgudi, son Jose Charles Martin in Kamaraj Nagar (Puducherry) for LJK, a party he founded; and son-in-law Aadhav Arjuna for TVK from Villivakkam (TN).

Change Reaction In 3 States; Assam Keeps Biswas In Himanta

Team TOI

It was a day of dramatic upheavals. BJP finally managed to win the state that had virtually become its final frontier over the past 10 years, Tamil superstar Vijay made a stunning political debut and looks set to be the next chief minister of Tamil Nadu, while Congress got the better of CPM in Kerala, clearing the way for a Left-mukt Bharat. Amid the anti-incumbency wave, Himanta Biswa Sharma held firm, routing Congress to take BJP to the party's first-ever majority of its own in Assam.

The victory of NDA in tiny Puducherry may not be in the same league, but served to drive home the message that smart politics and good alliances can help incumbents entrench themselves.

The political significance of BJP's victory is enormous. It owes hugely to the continuing popularity of PM Narendra Modi, despite being at the helm for 12 years — a story of remarkable resilience in an era of ever-soaring expectations. It reinforces the message about the party's country-wide dominance and, along with DMK's loss in Tamil Nadu, will trigger an upheaval in INDIA bloc ranks, making the LS an easier place for the Modi govt. Congress has already begun warming up to Vijay at the cost of its "ideological brotherhood" with DMK.

BJP is now in control of the entire east, with the exception of Jharkhand, where it is the principal opposition and can realistically hope for success in the 2029 state polls. A BJP-led Bengal can smoothen matters for the Centre on issues as diverse as GST and completion of border fencing. It will force "secular" players to take a fresh look at their playbook as they seek to negotiate the tension between expectations of large sections who are buying into Hindutva themes, and the need to cater to demands of Muslims. The presence of a sizeable Muslim population alone does not provide safe sanctuary from advancing Hindutva sentiments.

DANCE OF DEMOCRACY
FLAP OPP, P 5, 8-16, 18

▶Hindi heartland, P 8

Security lockdown at Didi home, secretariat

TMC chief Mamata Banerjee's residence in Kolkata and the secretariat in Nabanna were placed under an unprecedented security lockdown on Monday. Bengal chief secretary Dushyant Nariala instructed departmental heads to ensure no official documents are removed, damaged or copied without authorisation. P 5

Photo: Tarun Rawat

Narendra Babu: PM arrives at BJP HQ Monday sporting a Bengali look

DECODING THE VERDICT

- For Modi and BJP, the moment feels expansive. The absence of a parliamentary majority no longer appears constraining; successive state victories have more than compensated, creating a political surplus that amplifies authority. With the opposition fragmented, this advantage could **embolden govt to pursue tougher domestic reforms, and negotiate global challenges with greater confidence**
- For INDIA bloc, the verdict cuts deeper. Demolition jobs on key pillars like the TMC and DMK raise **existential questions about the bloc's viability as a national alternative**. Congress, still searching for competitive footing across large parts of the country, struggles to bridge the widening gap with sections of the majority community, and therefore risks acquiring a narrower political identity
- Issues like infiltration and citizenship have moved to the centre of political discourse. Results in Bengal and Assam will **likely be read as endorsement of stricter enforcement**, from border fencing to renewed debates around a National Register of Citizens, **signalling a harder edge to citizenship politics**
- At the same time, the promise of women's reservation before 2029 remains firmly on the table. **Delimitation now becomes the next battleground**, politically loaded, and strategically consequential for BJP
- In TN, the verdict delivers a **jolt to entrenched Dravidian politics**. Decades-old duopolies have cracked, making space for a new idiom that retains regional pride but sheds the sharper edges of linguistic and cultural antagonism
- **Hindutva, blended with welfare and development, continues to reshape electoral coalitions**, pressing non-BJP parties into difficult recalibrations, while deepening polarisation. BJP's journey to a pan-Indian presence now appears near-complete
- The derailment of three more political heirs, Udhayanidhi, Abhishek Banerjee and Gaurav Gogoi, is a reminder that in today's politics, **legacy may open doors, but it no longer guarantees arrival**

WHAT WORKED, WHAT DIDN'T: TOI explains the verdicts through 10 decisive factors, from freebies becoming entitlements to women's safety, and from Hindu vote to Gen Z angst P 10

As Stalin falls, Rahul's call to Vijay sets off support buzz

Mayilvaganan V & Julie Mariappan

Chennai: Having won 107 seats in TN, Vijay's TVK needs support of 11 MLAs. How TVK gets there remains a game of possibilities.

A call from Rahul Gandhi to Vijay on the "spectacular result" triggered reports of the possibility of Congress jumping ship. TVK sources said they are exploring multiple options — prime targets being allies of the two Dravidian parties. The DMK front won 74 seats and AIADMK front 52. Congress has 5 MLAs, CPI, CPM and DMDK 2 each, IUML 1. In the AIADMK front, PMK has won 5.

DMK declared it would sit in opposition. Chances of AIADMK striking a deal with TVK are also remote.

▶Stalin allies, P 15

Cong wins D'gere South, Bagalkot; BJP Sringeri post recount twist

Bengaluru: Congress held on to two crucial assembly seats in Karnataka bypolls. BJP snatched a late victory in Sringeri seat after a recount reversed the earlier result, adding a dramatic twist to the outcome. Congress scored a comfortable win in Bagalkot, where Umesh Meti, son of ex-minister H Y Meti, defeated BJP's Veerabhadrayya Charantimath by 22,332 votes, consolidating the party's position in a constituency it had narrowly won in 2023.

Umesh and Samarth

In Davanagere South, Samarth Mallikarjun, minister S S Mallikarjuna's son & grandson of late MLA Shamanur Shivashankarappa, won by a slim margin of 5,708 votes. He polled 69,578 votes against BJP's Srinivasa T Dasakariyappa, who polled 63,870 votes. The contest remained tight, with Samarth trailing in early rounds before gaining ground later. In 2023, Shamanur had won the same seat by over 27,888 votes. TNN

▶'Sign of return', P 4

Sanghrise in Bengal: No Mamata for TMC as BJP blazes past 2/3rds mark

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Voters have handed the reins of Bengal to BJP, effecting only the second regime change in the last 10 assembly polls and triggering a seismic shift whose aftershocks will be felt way beyond the state.

The Trinamool Congress fortress fell to a twin onslaught of strong anti-incumbency and a voter roll cut by nearly 12% by the SIR process, ceding a historic win to BJP in a state often seen as the last frontier for a party that's been in office at the Centre since 2014.

BJP had won 206 seats and was leading in one, hogging 45.8% of votes. TMC's vote share slipped from 48% in 2021 to 40.8%, with its 215 seats in the outgoing assembly down to 81 (wins and leads till midnight), indicating a sharp shift away from a party that championed Bengal nativism over nationalist politics.

Just a handful of TMC strongholds, such as South 24 Parganas, East Burdwan and Howrah, could staunch the vote haemorrhage as BJP swept large swathes of the state, from the north to the south. The saffron party's dominance in the north was near total and, in the southwest districts of Jhargram, Purulia and East Midnapore, TMC was blanked out entirely.

The killing blow was the saffron surge among urban and suburban voters in Kolkata and its fringes — Mamata's southern fortress, where she held 123 of the 142 seats. That number shrank to 52 as TMC lost 10 seats in Kolkata (including Mamata's own Bhabanipur), a large swathe of North 24 Parganas (including Panihati, where the raped and murdered R G Kar junior doctor's mother was the BJP candidate) and Howrah.

Suvendu beats Didi, will he be new Adhikari?

After defeating Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram in 2021, Suvendu Adhikari again beat her in a hard-fought battle, this time in her bastion of Bhabanipur, an achievement that could strengthen his claim when BJP picks the new CM. P 5

PTI

PM: Poriborton hoye gechhe; let's talk change, not revenge

Kumar Rakesh & Atul Mathur

New Delhi: "Banglaye poriborton hoye gechhe (change has happened in Bengal)," said a triumphant PM Narendra Modi, clad in traditional Bengali attire of 'dhuti-panjabi', in his victory speech at BJP headquarters here on Monday, hailing the party's maiden win in state as a new dawn in Bengal.

"This is a declaration of the country's bright future," he said, as BJP, besides its spectacular Bengal victory, scored a hat-trick in Assam and romped home in Puducherry with ally AINRC.

He appealed to parties in Bengal to resolve to end the unending cycle of poll violence. "*Badla nahi badlav ki baat honi chahiye. Bhay nahin, bhavishya ki baat honi chahiye* (we should not talk about revenge but about change; about the future, not fear)," he said. He noted that numerous BJP members have been killed in Bengal and Kerala and many more families have suffered for their ideology.

> **Like the Ganga river which flows from Bihar to Bengal, this victory has paved the way for our victory in Bengal**
> —PM Modi on Nov 14, 2025, after the Bihar results
>
> **I'm returning to Delhi with the faith that I have to come to Bengal again during BJP's oath-taking ceremony, after May 4**
> —On Apr 27, in Bengal's Jagatdal

Modi described the defeat of DMK and TMC as popular rejection of their politics of "division" based on language and food, and even the tagging of Indians as outsiders, a reference to their projection of BJP as a party of outsiders.

Left's loss in Kerala underscored a change of mindset and defeat of communism, with India preferring development and stability, he said.

▶'Punished for bill', P 7

Left out: Kerala gone, Communists not in office in any state after almost 50 years

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: For the first time since 1977, India will have no Communist-governed state as Kerala voters oust the CPM-led LDF and hand a victory to the Congress-led UDF.

The loss presents the Left its biggest challenge — maintaining its relevance at the national level in the face of declining influence.

The UDF rode an anti-incumbency wave against the **Pinarayi Vijayan** govt — in office since 2016 — winning 102 seats in the 140-member assembly.

The Kerala setback may also diminish the Left's clout in INDIA bloc. There is talk the results will prompt realignments in the bloc, with two key allies — TMC in Bengal and DMK in TN — being ousted from govt.

For CPM, what added to the ignominy of defeat was the victory of three CPM rebels. The victory of former CPM Kannur district committee member V Kunhikrishnan as a UDF-supported Independent in Payyannur, in the red citadel of Kannur, underscored party cadres' anger against the leadership over alleged nepotism and financial misappropriation. Former CPM district secretariat member TK Govindan defeated CPM state secretary MV Govindan's wife PK Shyamala in Thaliparamba. Former minister G Sudhakaran's success as a UDF-supported Independent completed the shock.

TOI

Blockbuster debut! Vijay TN's Gen-nayagan

Arun.Ram@timesofindia.com

MGR, the biggest crossover star from cinema to Tamil Nadu politics, never drank or smoked on screen. He was fair complexioned. For someone who claims to be the next MGR in Tamil Nadu politics, Vijay did – on screen – everything that MGR didn't: he played an alcoholic professor, a gangster, and a morally conflicted man. Yet, he seems to be on the way to becoming the next MGR in politics.

Vijay was a contrarian through his campaign: he avoided media interviews and did fewer public shows than chief minister M K Stalin and opposition leader Edappadi K Palaniswami. On the last day of the campaign, he blew a whistle (his party symbol) and offered a quid pro quo: "Give me one thing I ask – your vote – and I will give you all you ask for five years."

When everyone said TVK lacked the organisational strength to match the grassroots connect the Dravidian giants enjoyed, Vijay smirked – and got his social media operators to go full steam. When DMK and AIADMK churned out promos that took potshots at each other and glorified their respective leaders, TVK spin doctors flooded social media with videos of children prodding their parents and grandparents to vote for Vijay. He proved a 5.5-inch screen is good enough to reach 5.7 crore voters across 234 constituencies.

A **TOI** analysis of the last week of campaigning found that Vijay spoke the least at road shows (35 minutes), while Stalin (356 minutes) and EPS (806) waxed eloquent. When Stalin made 18 speeches and EPS 21, Vijay had spoken just twice. Yet, when we asked an AI tool to rate their appeal based on some 50,000 words they had spoken, Vijay scored better (8 out of 10) than EPS (7.7) and almost caught up with Stalin (8.6).

Vijay's timing is perfect too. Rajinikanth missed the bus in the mid-1990s, Vijayakanth entered politics in 2005 when M Karunanidhi and J Jayalalithaa were at the peak of their careers. Kamal Haasan, whose appeal was never 'mass', fizzled out. Vijay came when Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa had vacated the stage, and EPS was struggling to give a tough fight to Stalin. In the collective public psyche, DMK deserved a worthy rival – and Vijay fit the bill.

MGR became chief minister five years after founding AIADMK. Vijay made it in two years. From the ruins of a political duopoly, a superstar has been born.

REEL TO REAL DREAM RUN

- Born to **S A Chandrasekhar**, film director, producer & screenwriter, and **Shoba**, a playback singer & producer. Dropped out of **Loyola** College after enrolling for BA
- Made **68 films as lead**, including several blockbusters each of which hit ₹250cr mark. Popular as **'Thalapathy'**
- Divorce proceedings on, has a son & daughter
- **Vijay Makkal Iyakkam**, launched 2009, formalised his fan base across the state. Entered poll fray in 2021 with local body polls. **TVK launched in Feb 2024**

Calling himself 'Vijay Mama', the TVK chief thanked kids for his victory

3 cheers in Assam, and more: BJP gets majority on its own for the first time

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Guwahati: NDA won Assam for the third time in a row while BJP crossed the majority mark on its own for the first time, riding on the state's highest recorded voter turnout and powered by delimitation that helped Hindu and tribal voters control large voting areas. A new alliance, coupled with cash transfers to around 40 lakh women, helped NDA land its biggest victory in the state.

BJP won 82 of the 90 seats it had contested, while its two allies, Bodoland People's Front and Asom Gana Parishad, won 10 seats each, taking NDA's tally to 102 in a House with a strength of 126.

BJP saw its vote share spurt close to 39%, after finishing at 33% in 2021 and 29.5% in 2011. Describing the victory as historic, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said it was a vote for development, nari shakti, identity and the vision of a 'viksit Assam'.

A record turnout of nearly 86%, with female voters surpassing male voters by a staggering two lakh, also helped NDA come out on top.

The redrawing of constituencies played a pivotal role in BJP's victory as it shrank the number of Muslim dominant constituencies from 35 to 22 and increased the number of seats where indigenous voters held the key. Badruddin Ajmal's AIUDF was decimated, with its 2021 tally of 15 falling to just two, even as new NDA partner BPF won 10 of the 15 seats in the Bodo heartland, while UPPL, which had left the saffron alliance, drew a blank.

PTI

CM Sarma won Jalukbari, Gaurav Gogoi of Congress lost in Jorhat

Bangalore Times

AFTER MELTING CONCERT AT CALGARY, DILJIT DOSANJH ADDRESSES CRITICISM AT EDMONTON

'I get abuses from both the sides'

Background

I never want an Ola Electric Bhavish Aggarwal to talk about Punjab. I didn't go there to promote any film or song. I went there to bring Punjab & its issues to light

Devil Wears Prada 2 was submitted for an A certification in India

Bred to real power: A quick primer on Vijay — the latest star to translate cinematic appeal into actual political influence

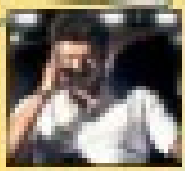
THE CINEMA TO CM STORY RETURNS TO TN

The Goat effect

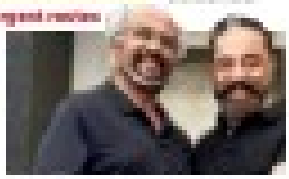
Cinema as politics

The film celebs who rebuilt TN

Following the MGR blueprint



Rajini, Kamal's divergent routes



The Jana Nayagan row

ANOTHER FLYOVER on the chopping block in city

Banaswadi Road's IOC Flyover To Make Way For ₹436cr Elevated Rotary Structure

CONGESTION AHEAD: The flyover demolition is expected to trigger disruptions in a number of areas in east Bengaluru that already see heavy traffic

Design | MR Rajashekar

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- New elevated rotary flyover planned at IOC Junction
- **Executing agency |** Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited
- **Project cost |** ₹436 crore (revised from ₹263 crore in 2023)
- **Cause of hike |** Changes in project plan, GST additions, other components
- Existing flyover (built in 2001–02) to be demolished

IMPACTED AREAS

- Dodda Banaswadi Road
- Byappanahalli Road
- Kammanahalli Road
- Maruthi Seva Nagar & nearby stretches

PURPOSE OF PROJECT

- Reduce chronic congestion in east Bengaluru
- Improve multi-directional access to Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal
- Address poor last-mile connectivity

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Bengaluru: After demolishing Jayadeva flyover for an interchange Metro station and marking Delmia flyover for removal under a double-decker corridor plan on Outer Ring Road, the city is set to raze another flyover.

Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-Smile) has identified a contractor to build a Rs 436-crore elevated rotary flyover at the busy IOC Junction. The existing flyover will be dismantled to facilitate construction of the new one. The railways had built the flyover in 2001-02.

The demolition, however, is expected to trigger disruptions, particularly along Dodda Banaswadi Road, Byappanahalli Road, Kammanahalli Road, and other connecting stretches in east Bengaluru, which already experience heavy traffic. A traffic plan in coordination with various agencies will be prepared before B-Smile, which was formed to implement large-scale projects in the city such as tunnel roads and elevated corridors, takes up the new project.

At the same time, B-Smile is planning construction of a railway overbridge at Byappanahalli Road connecting with Old Madras Road. An additional railway overbridge would benefit passengers travelling to Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, which has become one of the busiest railway stations in the city.

A B-Smile official said work orders will be issued shortly for the elevated rotary project. "The project is aimed at easing congestion in east Bengaluru and providing seamless access to Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, which was opened in 2022 but is plagued by inadequate last-mile connectivity due to narrow approach roads. Currently, city bus services operate from Old Madras Road side, while connectivity from other directions remains poor. The new elevated rotary flyover will provide seamless access to the terminal from all directions," the official said.

The new road infrastructure will ease congestion in Maruthi Seva Nagar, Kammanahalli Main Road, Dodda Banaswadi, Byappanahalli Road and other connecting stretches.

Initially, the rotary flyover was proposed at an estimated cost of Rs 263 crore in 2023. When asked about the cost escalation, the official said changes in the project plan, GST additions, and other components led to the increase. "Construction of the 1.5km flyover from Maruthi Seva Nagar Road was not part of the original plan. This will help segregate local traffic from long-distance commuters heading to the rail terminal. Construction of the railway overbridge will also ease congestion from SV Road Metro station side to Byappanahalli terminal," the official explained.

K-Ride, which is executing the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project through the IOC Junction, has given its NOC for construction of the rotary flyover. However, with multiple operational railway lines in the vicinity, executing the project will be a challenging task.

Pics: Syed Asif, Chethan Shivakumar

FOR SMOOTHER ACCESS: B-Smile plans a new railway overbridge at Byappanahalli Road linking Old Madras Road to ease access and congestion for passengers heading to Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal

South Bengaluru road repaired but footpaths lost to vendors

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Bengaluru: After years of struggle, people living along Holiday Village Road at Mallasandra, off Kanakapura Road, have finally seen some relief with the road improvement work nearing completion, but a new problem has cropped up almost immediately — encroachment of footpaths.

Locals say all kinds of shops have come up along the road, occupying the footpaths. They add that vehicles are parked on the road because of vendors selling tea and fast food, further slowing down traffic.

When **TOI** visited the area, there were at least five street vendors occupying the footpaths. A few pedestrians were seen walking on the road because of a lack of space on the footpaths.

The residents say despite multiple complaints since Feb, no action has been taken by civic authorities. They add that the problem has worsened with the concretisation of the 2.5km stretch. Resident Gayathri Paptimar filed a complaint with Lokayukta on April 23 against two senior Bengaluru South City Corporation officials, alleging failure to remove the encroachments.

Meena RK, president of Purva Highland Residents' Welfare Association, which comprises 1,097 flats, said: "After three years of struggle, we finally got a proper road, but now vendors are encroaching upon footpaths. We've been raising objections and approached officials and also police with letters. While they hear us out, nothing really happens on the ground."

TOI

BARRIER Encroached footpaths & roadside parking by vendors are worsening the traffic situation, say those living in Mallasandra

> The vendors claim to have permission from the authorities and say they pay weekly fees. Even partially constructed footpaths are already encroached upon. Accidents have occurred, including one involving my maid two months ago, while she was navigating blocked roads and incomplete footpaths
>
> **Pradeep Shenoy** | MEMBER, MALLASANDRA CITIZENS' FORUM

Govt to acquire 31k sqm for BSRP depot near Devanahalli

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Bengaluru: The severely delayed Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) secured a boost with govt issuing a notification to acquire nearly 31,000sqm of land near Devanahalli to set up a primary depot for the Majestic-Devanahalli corridor.

The Sampige Line (corridor-1) will connect Majestic and Devanahalli via Yelahanka, and officials plan a primary depot for this line at Akkupete near Devanahalli. Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) issued a preliminary notification last week to acquire land from five villages, including Devanahalli. The notification states K-Ride will develop the depot.

The notification marks 14,000sqm in Akkupet, 7,340sqm in Sanna Amanikere, 6,969sqm in Hireamanikere, 1,504sqm in Upparahalli, and 1,100sqm in Devanahalli for acquisition. Some 50 properties stand on these parcels, most owned by private individuals, while nhai and the state govt also own some.

The notification bans sale, lease, mortgage or transfer of the notified land without prior permission from KIADB's special land acquisition officer — the competent authority in this case. Construction and development activities have also been restricted. Landowners have been warned not to obstruct or create hurdles for govt officials entering the notified properties.

Compensation will be based on provisions of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, along with relevant sections of the KIADB Act.

In a separate notification, KIADB declared the identified land as an industrial area. Officials said KIADB will acquire the land and hand it over to K-Ride. "About 31 acres have been identified, including 26 acres of forest land and 5 acres of govt land," a source from K-Ride said.

Weather blind spot: Logistics hit Doppler radar installation

Niranjan Kaggere & Jahnavi | TNN

Bengaluru: Heavy rain and winds in and around the city have time and again exposed a critical gap in its preparedness — the absence of a Doppler weather radar. The record rain on April 29, which intensified within minutes and left several areas flooded, once again highlighted how the lack of a real-time, hyperlocal forecasting system continues to leave the city vulnerable to weather surprises.

Despite witnessing back-to-back extreme weather events across seasons in recent years — triggering flash floods and causing losses running into several crores — Bengaluru, the country's tech capital, still lacks a dedicated Doppler radar that can provide real-time alerts on sudden weather events.

Meteorologists argue that such a system could offer a lead time of 1-3 hours, potentially reducing damage and enabling quicker emergency response. The orange alert issued by IMD at 5.15pm on April 29 was followed by intense rainfall within minutes, leaving little room for the district administration or GBA to respond effectively.

Although Union govt has sanctioned a Doppler radar for Bengaluru after years of demand, delays in finalising a suitable site have stalled its installation. After nearly two years of deliberations, state govt selected a site atop Nandi Hills in 2025. However, logistical challenges have since hindered progress, with IMD awaiting a govt intervention for nearly six months.

"The state govt allocated a small plot atop Nandi Hills located in front of Children's Park. But the construction of the base for the radar has met with logistical issues. The top portion of the hillock is secured by a fort and has a narrow entrance that allows entry of vehicles of up to 12ft height. However, earthmoving equipment and boom cranes measuring 40 metres in length are unable to pass through the gate and reach the top. We have requested govt to help us in airlifting the machines and parts. Govt officials have assured us of providing alternatives, and we are yet to hear from them," said an IMD official.

Weather enthusiasts tracking the issue say the prolonged delay has already cost the city dear.

"Bengaluru lost the opportunity to host Karnataka's first Doppler radar, with Mangaluru going ahead and commissioning the advanced system, leaving the capital city dependent on distant observations. Now, Dharwad is also nearing the commissioning of a similar radar system. It is high time the govt realised the importance of a tech-driven forecast system and facilitated speedy installation of radar."

TOI

> The C-band Doppler radar is 12-15 tonnes heavy... The gate (atop Nandi Hills) is around 10ft in width and 12ft in height. But the equipment is much bigger in size. IMD officials have been mulling over airlifting the radar and other parts to the hilltop by securing govt's permission
> **— A horticulture dept official**

Early-life experiences shape brain: Researchers

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: From the womb to adolescence, early-life experiences leave measurable imprints on the brain, shaping mental health, cognition and disease risks decades later. That was the focus of Param (Pathways to Resilience and Mental Health)-Connect, held at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences Monday, which brought together leading neurodevelopment cohorts from across India.

Researchers presented findings from long-running studies in Mysuru, Pune, Vellore and Adivasi regions of Chamarajanagar, among others, showing how nutrition, environment and caregiving interact to influence brain development. "For the first time, we're able to move from group-level findings to predicting outcomes at the individual level," said Vivek Benegal, a retired professor of psychiatry, Nimhans, highlighting how large datasets and brain mapping tools are helping identify early deviations linked to mental illness. He added that early adversity and socioeconomic inequality significantly alter brain development, but protective factors such as supportive school environments can make a difference.

Several studies underscored how risks begin even before birth. "We found that maternal metabolic health plays a major role," said GV Krishnaveni, senior scientist at the Epidemiology Research Unit, CSI Holdsworth Memorial Hospital, presenting data from the Mysuru cohorts. "Children born to diabetic mothers had higher adiposity, blood pressure and insulin resistance, with some already showing early signs of metabolic disease."

@PARAM CONNECT

Speaking on similar lines, Rishikesh Behere, a psychiatrist from Manoshanti in Pune, highlighted findings from the Pune Maternal Nutrition Study linking maternal nutrition to long-term brain outcomes. He noted that Vitamin B12 deficiency, in particular, can have lasting effects on children's brain development, cognition, and mental health.

"We found that children born to mothers with low Vitamin B12 had poorer attention and executive function. More importantly, supplementation showed clear benefits; children whose mothers received B12 performed better cognitively even years later," he said. The findings come from one of India's longest-running intergenerational cohorts, tracking families for over two decades.

Newer cohort studies in vulnerable populations are also revealing complex social risks. Presenting data from an Adivasi birth cohort in Chamarajanagar, Yogish CB, assistant professor at the Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, said substance use is extremely high in these communities and is affecting health across generations.

Early warning signs

Using community-based developmental tools, researchers also reported that early warning signs are visible within the first year of life. Assessments show that developmental delays can be identified as early as 12 months, particularly among children exposed to multiple risk factors such as parental substance use.

METRO WRAP

College fest a hit

MVJ College of Engineering hosted SWAYAM 2026, its national-level intercollegiate cultural fest, on April 28-29, bringing together over 400 participants from more than 50 colleges across Karnataka. The two-day fest was inaugurated by Subhadip Sarkar, vice-president at Cognizant Technology Solutions and MVJCE alumnus. It featured 38 events spanning dance, music, drama, fine arts, and public speaking.

Varsity to get AI CoE

The University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, has announced an MoU for strategic collaboration with Deloitte India to establish a centre of excellence (CoE) in AI & innovation at the new UNSW Bengaluru campus. The collaboration will focus on creating a platform that integrates education with industry-relevant practices, applied research and knowledge exchange, said a press release.

Agarbatti & perfume expo

The fragrance and incense industry is set to converge at the 12th International Agarbatti & Perfume Expo 2026, scheduled to be held from May 9 to 11 at Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC). It will be a three-day exhibition.

Prof found killed in burning car, lover dead on rly tracks

Man Borrowed Friend's Hatchback For Trip To Nandi Hills

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A relationship between a divorced man and a college professor met a gruesome end last week, with bodies of both found a day apart by police — the woman's inside a car, completely charred, and the man's on railway tracks, severed into pieces.

C Ramanjinappa, 45, a resident of Marasandra near Rajanakunte, worked at the Devanahalli taluk office, and was in a relationship with Saroja J, 40, a Kannada professor at a private college in Devanahalli, police said.

At 6.30am Saturday, Ramanjinappa borrowed a hatchback car from his friend, Suresh Kumar, claiming a family medical emergency. He drove to Devanahalli, where he picked up Saroja at the local bus stop around 9:30am. The duo reportedly spent the morning touring Nandi Hills and surrounding areas. By late afternoon, they reached the secluded outskirts of Jinkebachhahalli in Doddaballapur, where the day's leisure trip took a dark turn.

According to police investigations, a violent confrontation must have occurred inside the vehicle. Ramanjinappa allegedly struck Saroja on the head with a hammer. Once she lost consciousness, he moved her body to the back seat, doused the vehicle with petrol and set it ablaze. Witness accounts and forensic evidence suggest that as Ramanjinappa set ablaze the car, the fire caught his own clothing, causing him burns before he fled the crime scene.

Alerted by locals who reported a car in flames and a man fleeing from it, Doddaballapur rural police, along with fire tenders, rushed to the spot and doused the fire. Then they disocered a charred body inside.

By then, the car owner received an alert on his mobile stating his vehicle had met with an accident. "The car had auto collision notification feature. Panicked, Suresh Kumar called Ramanjinappa but the mobile was switched off," a police officer said.

A little later, police, through the chassis number of the burnt vehicle, contacted Kumar. He reached the place and told police his friend Ramanjinappa had taken the vehicle in the morning.

"A special team led by police inspector Sadiq Pasha was formed to crack the case," a senior police officer said.

On Sunday morning, railway police contacted Pasha, saying they had found Ramanjinappa's body on railway tracks near Bidadi in Bengaluru South, completely mangled with limbs severed. As police had launched a manhunt for Ramanjinappa, an announcement had been made through all police control rooms of the state.

"An Aadhaar card found lying near the body identified the deceased as Ramanjinappa. Before that, on Saturday night, police control room had flashed a report saying a woman by the name Saroja from Devanahalli was missing. We had already collected burnt ornaments from the body inside the car. We called Saroja's husband, Jayashankar, and he recognised them as his wife's," an investigating officer said.

On Sunday afternoon, Jayashankar registered a police complaint against Ramanjinappa for killing Saroja.

Police probe indicated that Ramanjinappa (inset) struck Saroja on the head with a hammer inside the car at Jinkebachhahalli in Doddaballapur, before setting the vehicle ablaze. But his clothes caught fire while he was fleeing. He was found dead near Bidadi

SC seeks status report on Darshan case trial

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Supreme Court Monday sought a status report from the trial court in Bengaluru about the ongoing trial in the 2024 Renukaswamy murder case, in which the main accused are Kannada actors **Darshan Thoogudeepa** and Pavitra Gowda and their associates.

The report has to specify how many witnesses have been examined, how many remain and how much time it would take to complete the trial. An SC bench, comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Vijay Bishnoi, also issued notices on a petition filed by Darshan, seeking bail in the case.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who appeared for Darshan, submitted that as SC had cancelled the bail on Aug 14, 2025, the actor has so far spent one year in jail on the whole. He claimed the petitioner is being denied even basic facilities and has been put in a quarantine cell.

Mystery drone spotted over Isro campus

Bengaluru: An unauthorised drone was spotted over Isro's Satellite Integration and Testing Establishment campus on May 2, which triggered a major security alert.

Sub-inspector Satish Kumar of Central Industrial Security Force, deployed on the campus in Karthik Nagar, said the drone flew at a height of 80-100 feet for 10-12 seconds at 8:16 am before disappearing. The campus has been designated a 'no-drone zone'.

Unauthorised aerial activity over such a facility is considered a potential threat to national security and safety. HAL police registered a case. TNN

Case against CS over deadly wall collapse

Bengaluru: Acting suo motu, Lokayukta registered a suo motu case against the chief secretary and other officials, holding them responsible for the seven deaths that occurred during last week's compound wall collapse at Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute.

A press note said an officer of the rank of superintendent of police has been appointed to investigate the case. TNN

Parents take cue from Delhi CM to flag diktat by schools on kits

SruthySusan.Ullas
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Bengaluru: Parents' associations in Karnataka have urged state govt to do as Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta has done: Warn private schools against compelling parents to buy books and uniforms from specific vendors.

Even though Karnataka has similar rules in place, they are hardly enforced anywhere. Several parents in the state have won favourable judgments from the high court in this regard, but little has changed on ground.

"Schools have various ways to fleece parents. One of the biggest is through notebooks. Vendors issue notebooks with the school logo at almost double the market price of a normal one," said Mohammed Shakeel, a parent who has been fighting this issue. "Many schools have their own set of textbooks for lower grades which are unavailable in the market. So, parents are forced to buy the books from schools, often through the school's app, where parents must buy the entire kit," he pointed out.

The kits are sometimes ridiculous, he added. "Oil pastels of 30 shades for a first grader! Instrument boxes every year! Sometimes, they split books into two terms, citing the reason that they are reducing school bag weight, but actually doubling the book expenses. Some schools have in-house stores where these items are available round the year. It is a nexus," Shakeel said.

Sijo Sebastian, secretary of Voice of Parents association, said govt lacked political will to enforce its own directives. "Despite multiple circulars issued by the authorities, and judicial interventions emphasising transparency, there has been a consistent failure in effective enforcement. Regulatory intent exists only on paper," Sebastian said.

Child rights activists say parents are on the verge of giving up. "While there were a few complaints from parents last year, we have not received any this year. We usually guide them on how to take it up with education department officials. But, in no case so far, has it been of any use. So, parents have lost hope. And even if a few parents rebel against the system, they do not receive support from others, and finally have to compromise with the schools," said Nagasimha G Rao, an activist.

Former chairman of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Shashidar B, welcomed the Delhi CM's lead in this matter and urged other states to follow suit. "We have written to the education department to implement RTE and other rules effectively," he said.

What Delhi CM said

On every school's notice board, website or store where they provide books, it must be stated in writing that parents can purchase uniforms, books or stationery from anywhere. There will be no compulsion for any parent to buy books only from the vendor the school recommends. If any discrepancy is found, the school will face the strictest action, and may even be taken over (by govt)."

Karnataka Educational Institutions' Rules

Purchase of uniform clothing and textbooks from the school or from a shop, etc, suggested by school authorities and stitching of uniform clothing with the tailors suggested by school authorities, shall be at the option of the student or his/her parent. The school authorities shall make no compulsion in this regard.

"My grandchild is in primary class at a school in Hulimavu. The school charges over Rs 12,000 for books. The book kit includes a dictionary, atlas, and what not. The student ID card and a handbook costs another Rs 500. All these charges are over and above the tuition fees. This is daylight robbery
— A guardian

"We do not support any school that prescribes specific vendors or sells books/uniforms on campus. We have requested govt to take action against such schools several times
D Shashi Kumar | SECRETARY, ASSOCIATED MANAGEMENTS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF KARNATAKA

Man strangled for stalking girl; 4 nabbed

Bengaluru: Yelahanka police Monday arrested a 44-year-old daily-wage worker and three of his associates on charges of murdering a food delivery agent, whose body was found inside a rajakaluve (stormwater drain) in Yelahanka Friday last.

Preliminary police investigation revealed he was strangled to death.

Police said the man was killed as he was stalking and harassing the daily-wage worker's minor daughter.

"The victim was identified as Ramesh Kumar, 36, a food delivery agent who was residing in Peenya. On Thursday night, he visited a bar near Yelahanka with a few men. Thereafter, he was murdered," an investigating officer said.

Police found that four men who had accompanied Kumar to the bar were in Bagalkot, north Karnataka.

"Prime accused Eeraiah Dundaiah said Ramesh was harassing his minor daughter to marry him. In 2023, the girl filed a complaint with Bagalkot police against Kumar for sexually harassing her. Police arrested Kumar and he was in judicial custody for one year. But he continued to harass the girl even after coming out of prison, following which she was secretly relocated to a relative's house in Yelahanka," the officer said.

Kumar learnt that the girl was in Yelahanka. He took a room on rent in Peenya and started working as a food delivery agent. The girl told her father that Kumar was following her every day, forcing her to marry him," the officer said. TNN

Pourakarmikas demand rest, refreshments to work in heat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The scorching heat this summer has made life difficult for the city's sanitation workers. With a significant portion of these workers being women, they claim that adequate rest or refreshment facilities are not provided by the administration.

Seeking immediate action, the BBMP Pourakarmikara Sangha Monday submitted a letter to chief commissioner of Central City Corporation, Rajendra Cholan, stating that women pourakarmikas were working under scorching heat conditions from 6.30am to 2.30pm, often seven days a week without rest and denied even national and festival holidays.

Citing that outdoor workers have no access to rest shelters and that these conditions pose serious risks to their health, the union demanded that the civic authorities provide them half-day work waivers. Additionally, the union sought refreshment beverages, clean drinking water, oral rehydration salts and buttermilk daily, along with essentials such as eyeshades, caps, umbrellas and protective gear.

File pic

SWEATING IT OUT: Sanitation workers say they work under severe heat conditions till 2.30pm, often seven days a week

"Restrooms are not available in most places. These complications seriously affect workers' health and weaken them," said Nirmala M, president of the union.

Though their grievance was addressed to Central City Corporation, pourakarmikas say the situation is same in all parts of the city. "Similar letters will be submitted to chief commissioners of all city corporations," they said.

What other cities do

In Hyderabad, local police have installed mist fans, especially for traffic police who regulate thousands of vehicles in scorching heat. The pilot programme, set up at important junctions, sprays mist in the air around where traffic personnel stand.

In Chennai, the Greater Chennai Corporation has put up green canopies for shade at about 40 junctions and landmarks across the city. These provide shade to motorists, vendors and gig workers. The city also has an air-conditioned lounge for those who work out in the sun. The lounge, equipped with Wi-Fi and drinking water facility, can accommodate up to 25 people at a time.

In New Delhi, state govt has started to install cold water dispensers in DTC buses, allowing commuters to access it for free. The govt has also ordered outdoor work to halt between 12pm and 3pm when the mercury is at its peak.

Power failure: Metro stn shut for 4 hrs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

@CUBBON PARK

Bengaluru: Cubbon Park underground Metro station was closed for four hours following a power failure Monday morning. The outage affected lighting within the station premises, prompting authorities to suspend train halts as a safety precaution.

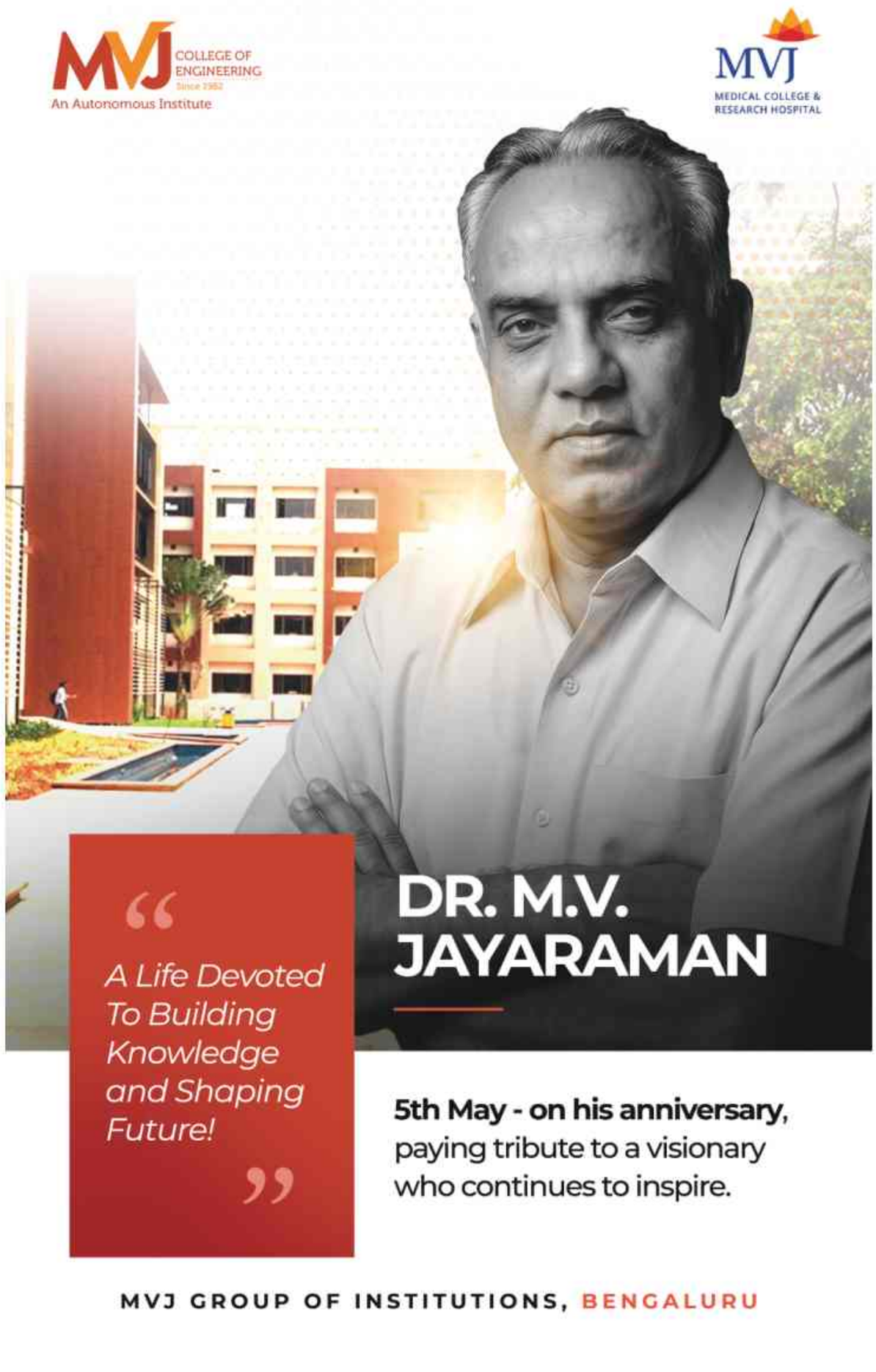
Trains continued to operate on Purple Line but did not stop at Cubbon Park station between 7am and 11am. Commuters were asked to use nearby stations such as Vidhana Soudha and MG Road to access Purple Line service, leading to inconvenience during peak hours.

An official from Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited said the disruption was limited to the underground station and did not impact train movements. "Due to power supply issue, lighting systems in the underground station were nonfunctional. While train operations were unaffected, the station was temporarily closed to passengers as a safety measure. Services resumed after the issue was rectified," the official said.

The control circuit fault required isolation and verification to avoid disruptions or equipment damage before it could be rectified, the official added.

KEEP IT GOING! TIMES NIE CONGRATULATES SCHOOL TOPPERS OF ICSE EXAMINATIONS 2025-26 AND EXTENDS BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE

School Name	Topper
ACTS School	Poorvika R
AC School (Commerce)	Rachael Abigail
AC School (Science)	Eshwar D
Acharya Pathasala Public School, NR Colony	Avnitha T
Aditya Public School, Doddaballapur	Devananda Biju Thottathil
Amara Jyothi English School, KR Pura	Shreeyan M
Anantha Vidyaniketan	Ullas Gowda
Appollo NPS, Padmanabhanagar	NM Hansika & Revanth Naidu
Aradhana Academy	SG Shivani & Shrikant Dutta Pramanik
Auden School	Sanjana S Ravi
Bethany High School, Koramangala	Nirmal Nair
Bethany High School, Sarjapur	Christina Joy
Bethesda International School, Kengeri	Tanishka B Majage
BGS World School, Chikkaballapur	Ruthwij Bhargav N
BGS World School, Mahalakshmi Layout	Divyanshi P Gollahalli
BGS World School, Nagarur	Hiranya NG
Bishop Cotton Boys' School (Commerce)	Sahil Lal Chughani
Bishop Cotton Boys' School (Science)	Chirag Surana
Bishop Cotton Girls' School (Commerce)	Gunagyah Chhabra & T Heeral Bohra
Bishop Cotton Girls' School (Science)	Riana Sara Suby
Brooklyn National Public School, Vijayanagar	Mohammed Zaid
Bunts' Sangha RNS Vidya Niketan, Vijayanagar	Abhijith MS
Cambridge Public School, Yelahanka	Chethan Gowda HM
Cambridge School, KR Pura	Parteek Mulbagal
Carmel School, Padmanabhanagar	Siri CS
Cathedral High School (Commerce)	Yogitha Jain
Cathedral High School (Science)	K Aathi
Christ International School, Malur	George Kurian
Chrysalis High, Marq	Avneesh Chitravanshi
Chrysalis High, Varthur	Anushka Shrivastava
Clarence High School, Richards Town	Geona Samuel
Clarence Public School, JP Nagar	Shaurya Brahma & Skanda KS
Daffodils English School, Sanjayanagar	Hanshika Ramadass
Dayananda Sagar International School	Dhanvitha LG
Devin Academy for Learning, Sahakarnagar	Amish N & Preetham Udnur
Divine English School, Yeshwantpur	K Lipika Mehta
EISB	Sreeram Rajesh
Euro School, HSR Layout	Maya Ameen
Federal Public School, Yelahanka	Mahira Naseer
Florence Public High School, RT Nagar	P Tanishka
Ganga International School, Nelagadaranahalli	Benakesh S Matad
Gopalan International School	S Dusyanth
Gopalan National School	Riza Mariyam A
Greenfield Public School, Jakkur	Richik Mazumder
Greenwood High, Bannerghatta	Adeeth Basu
Greenwood High, Sarjapur	Kashvi Fogla
HAL Gnanajyoti School	Aayush Kumar
Janak Academy, Arekere (Commerce)	Nikhil Marathe
Janak Academy, Arekere (Science)	Ananthakrishna G Bhat
Jubilee International Public School, Nagarbhavi	Inchara N & Deepthi A
Kenneth George English School, Kempapura	Podaralla Kruthika & N Lohith Rao Karade
Kenneth George English School, RT Nagar	Harshika M
Kingston High School	Ethan William Lewis
Lawrence High School, HSR Layout	Atul Kumar Mishra
Little Flower Public School	Rishi Raj
MES Kishore Kendra, Vidyaranyapura	Aditya Guruprasad Bharadwaj
MG School for Excellence, Bilekahalli	Kshiti G
Mitra Academy	Skylie Rooren
NET Public School, Gavipuram	Pranav Bhargav DA
New Age World School, Yelahanka	Preetham Akshay Raj BK
New Baldwin International Residential School, Anekal	Rishi S & Nandini V
New Baldwin International Residential School, Mandur	Vishwas S Gowda
New Baldwin International School, Banaswadi	Yogya Sri Kappagantu
New Baldwin International School, Margondanahalli	Shefali Harish
Notre Dame Academy	Savio Anish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Since 1982
An Autonomous Institute
MVJ
MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH HOSPITAL
"A Life Devoted To Building Knowledge and Shaping Future!"
DR. M.V. JAYARAMAN
5th May - on his anniversary, paying tribute to a visionary who continues to inspire.
MVJ GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS, BENGALURU

WHAT RESULTS MEAN

Congress' victories in the Davanagere South and Bagalkot byelections have reinforced the governing party's momentum and struck a blow to BJP's narrative. Such results are often viewed as an endorsement of the govt's leadership and welfare programmes and the outcome is expected to shape internal party equations, leadership debates, and opposition strategy across the two main parties. **Manu Aiyappa Kanathanda** analyses

SIDDARAMAIAH (CM)

The results strengthen Siddaramaiah's authority amid speculation that he could be replaced as CM. It is likely to consolidate his position within the party, reinforce perceptions of sustained public support midway through his term, and strengthen his hand in decision-making. His push in finalising the Bagalkot ticket and ensuring a big victory adds to his political standing.

DK SHIVAKUMAR (Deputy CM & KPCC president)

It boosts his organisational credentials and electoral influence but the slender margin in Davanagere South may be a concern, as he had taken the lead in securing the ticket for SS Mallikarjun's son Samarth. While victory strengthens his bargaining position for the CM post, the strong mandate for the govt could also delay an immediate change. The outcome balances his ambitions with party stability, making the overall result largely even for him.

BY VIJAYENDRA (BJP state president)

Defeat in both seats is a huge setback, especially amid expectations of strong performance in Lingayat-dominated constituencies, the party's core vote base. The results raise questions about BJP's revival strategy after its 2023 drubbing and may intensify internal scrutiny over leadership and campaign effectiveness. Continued inability to convert anti-incumbency into electoral gains could weaken Vijayendra's position and complicate efforts to unify the party.

HD KUMARASWAMY (JD-S state president and Union minister)

In a contest dominated by Congress and BJP, the outcome challenges the relevance of JD(S). He had expected ally BJP to secure at least one seat and potentially dent the confidence of Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar. While the setback is seen primarily as BJP's defeat rather than that of the regional party, questions over its independent strength persist.

BZ ZAMEER AHMED KHAN (Minister and Muslim face of Congress)

The diversion of a significant chunk of minority votes, especially to SDPI in Davanagere South, could affect his standing within the party. But it also highlights his relevance, suggesting the party may struggle to consolidate minority support without his involvement. The narrow margin and split vote may prompt a likely internal review of his role ahead of future elections.

SATISH JARKIHOLI (Minister)

The Bagalkot result reinforces his role as an effective strategist. Tasked with overseeing the campaign, he coordinated ground-level mobilisation and ensured organisational cohesion, contributing to the party's decisive victory. The outcome strengthens his standing within the state unit and highlights his ability to deliver in significant contests. It also enhances his influence in internal party affairs, with his name emerging as a potential contender for the KPCC president post, currently held by DK Shivakumar.

Muslim unrest gives Cong a scare, trims win margin by 80% in bastion

Sandeep Moudgal & Basavaraj Maralihalli | TNN

Bengaluru: Congress retained Davanagere South assembly seat but barely, as minority unrest and internal dissent sharply reduced its victory margin in what has long been a Shamanur family stronghold.

Congress candidate Samarth Mallikarjun, grandson of late Shamanur Shivashankarappa, trailed in eight of the 21 rounds of counting before securing a win by 5,708 votes — a steep drop from the 27,888-vote margin recorded by his grandfather in 2023.

TOI

GUNG-HO: Congress workers celebrate Samarth Mallikarjun's victory on Monday. Samarth is a third generation politician from the Shamanur family

DAVANAGERE SOUTH

Shivashankarappa had comfortably held the seat even during the party's poor performance in 2018. However, this time, the narrow margin and split in minority votes have emerged as key concerns for Congress.

The result has exposed visible cracks in Congress party's minority support base in a constituency with an estimated 80,000 Muslim voters. As many as 14 Muslim candidates were in the election fray, leading to a significant division of votes.

Collectively, these candidates polled 21,510 votes with Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) candidate Afsar Kodlipete alone securing 18,975, far exceeding the 6,000-odd votes SDPI secured in previous elections. Sources say the spike suggests possible backing from disgruntled Congress functionaries. Congress has already initiated disciplinary action against some of them.

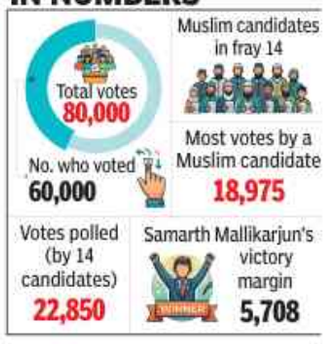
Senior functionaries acknowledged the setback. Both chief minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shivakumar admitted the party struggled to handle minority anger, although Shivakumar insisted party workers remained united during the campaign.

Party functionaries on the ground pointed to internal resentment and sabotage as contributing factors. "However, what saved us were women, especially from minority communities. They solidly backed us," said party functionaries.

BJP's decision to field Srinivas Dasakariyappa, an ST, also aided Congress by helping it consolidate Lingayat votes, partially offsetting the dip in Muslim support.

Congress MLC Saleem Ahmed offered a more positive assessment, saying the party overcame challenges through coordinated efforts. "We were able to quell unrest among minorities," he said. "We reached out to them and ensured they stayed with the party. The guarantee schemes helped ensure the popularity of the govt was not hurt," he said.

MINORITY VOTES IN NUMBERS


Total votes 80,000
No. who voted 60,000
Muslim candidates in fray 14
Most votes by a Muslim candidate 18,975
Votes polled (by 14 candidates) 22,850
Samarth Mallikarjun's victory margin 5,708

POLL BYTES

Strongroom keys missing

Missing keys to three strong rooms led to a 30-minute delay in counting in Davanagere South, forcing officials to break open the locks. EVMs were stored at DRR College and counting was scheduled to begin at 7.30am. But when officials could not locate the keys, they obtained permission and used a chisel and hammer to open the doors. Deputy commissioner Gangadhar Swamy, election observer Ramankanth and returning officer Santosh Kumar were present. Videos of the incident were widely shared on social media.

All in Shamanur family

Samarth Mallikarjun is the third in his family to enter the assembly. The son of minister SS Mallikarjun and Davanagere MP Prabha Mallikarjuna, his debut in electoral politics follows the death of his grandfather, Shamanur Shivashankarappa. Samarth continues a family political legacy spanning three generations.

2023 margins flipped

The Bagalkot and Davangere South bypolls recorded a sharp reversal in victory margins compared to 2023. In Bagalkot, late HY Meti won by a margin of around 5,000 votes in 2023. On Monday, his son Umesh Meti expanded the lead, winning by nearly 27,000 votes. In Davangere South, Congress candidate Samarth Mallikarjun won by 5,708 votes. This contrasts with 2023, when his grandfather Shamanur Shivashankarappa won the seat with a margin exceeding 27,000 votes.

Siddaramaiah's gamble, Jarkiholi's effort deliver resounding victory

Manu Aiyappa Kanathanda & Sangamesh Menasinkai | TNN

Bagalkot: Chief minister Siddaramaiah's personal push in Bagalkot delivered a decisive win for Congress in the bypoll, with Umesh Meti, a political novice, defeating BJP's Veerabhadrayya Charantimath by a margin of over 22,000 votes, a result attributed to the CM's direct involvement and on-ground execution led by his trusted lieutenant Satish Jarkiholi.

TOI

LANDSLIDE: Umesh Meti celebrates his victory on Monday

HOW IT PLAYED OUT

- **Winner:** Umesh Meti (Cong) **97,941**
- **Runner-up:** Veeranna Charantimath (BJP) **76,075**
- **Margin: 21,866**

BAGALKOT

Meti, son of late MLA HY Meti, secured 98,919 votes, while Charantimath, a former MLA and BJP's 2023 candidate, polled 76,587 votes.

Siddaramaiah, who shared a long political association with the late Meti dating back to their JD(S) days and later in Congress under the Ahinda platform, treated the contest as a matter of prestige. He camped in the constituency for nearly a week — a rare move for a CM in a bypoll — and mobilised ministers and party functionaries.

The outcome also proved his command over the Ahinda bloc. Siddaramaiah is also said to have played a decisive role in candidate selection. Despite resistance from functionaries, he ensured the ticket went to the Meti family — from the Kuruba community. The CM himself is a Kuruba. The community has a notable presence in the constituency, adding to the political significance of the contest.

Jarkiholi was tasked with overseeing strategy and coordinating booth-level operations. Party functionaries credited his team with executing a focused plan targeting undecided voters and consolidating support across segments.

"His team members were very professional in implementing the plan at booth level," party functionaries said. "They identified the voters' stand and tackled neutral voters. That gave fruitful results."

Umesh maintained a consistent lead through all rounds of counting and the margin far exceeded expectations since HY Meti had defeated Charantimath by only 5,878 votes in 2023.

Congress workers kicked off celebrations early — even while counting was on — bursting crackers and raising slogans as the lead widened. Umesh dedicated the victory to his father and party workers and later visited Yalageshwar temple in neighbouring Nidagundi taluk.

Bayakka Meti, Umesh's relative, highlighted the role played by party brass. "Siddaramaiah, Jarkiholi and other ministers took responsibility for ensuring success for our brother Umesh," she said. "Siddaramaiah especially stood with us like our father. Voters too continued their support towards Congress and our family."

Sringeri seat: Jeevaraj declared winner, legal battle likely to continue

The legal battle to wrest Sringeri assembly segment is likely to continue after BJP candidate DN Jeevaraj was declared winner following verification and recounting of postal ballots from the 2023 polls. The recount was ordered by the high court.

Returning officer Gaurav Shetty issued the election certificate to Jeevaraj Monday, bringing an end to three days of uncertainty. But with Congress filing an FIR over alleged irregularities, the dispute is set to continue in the legal arena.

In the recount which began Saturday, BJP's Jeevaraj received 690 votes, while Congress' Rajegowda got 314. Overall, Jeevaraj won by a margin of 52 votes. Reacting sharply to the development, deputy CM and Congress president DK Shivakumar alleged the process was "manipulated". "It is a dangerous trend for the country," he said. He alleged changes were made to ballots during the recounting process.

Dismissing the allegations, Jeevaraj said he had sought a recount immediately after the 2023 results. "If it had been done then, this confusion would not have arisen," he said. TNN

Clear sign of our return to power in 2028: Shivakumar

▸ Continued from page 1

The Davanagere South result also reflected a fragmented mandate. Fourteen Muslim candidates contested, collectively drawing over 60,000 votes, many reportedly going to the SDPI candidate. This split has been linked to dissatisfaction among sections of the Muslim community over Congress ticket allocation.

In a parallel development in Sringeri following three days of procedural uncertainty, BJP's DN Jeevaraj was declared elected over Congress candidate TD Rajegowda by just 52 votes after a recount overturned the initial result. The returning officer issued the election certificate after clearance from the Election Commission, altering the assembly arithmetic. Congress now plans to challenge the result legally.

CM Siddaramaiah said, "This mandate reflects both the achievements of our govt and the enduring strength of the party's ideology. Despite misinformation campaigns and the influence of money power, voters in both constituencies reaffirmed their trust in Congress and our governance."

Shivakumar attributes win to welfare schemes

DK Shivakumar echoed the sentiment, attributing the results to voter support for the party's welfare schemes. "People have noted that our govt is not only implementing the five guarantee schemes but also ensuring efficient governance. The support is clear for us to return to power in 2028," he said.

On the narrow win in Davanagere South, he added, "We expected a bigger margin there. We have been informed that EVM-VVPAT verification is pending in some areas. Around 1,500 votes are yet to be counted, and with a current lead of about 4,900 votes, our candidate's victory is almost certain. The official announcement is pending. The SDPI candidate secured around 19,000 votes. In politics and elections, 49 is equivalent to zero and 51 is equivalent to a hundred."

He also highlighted Bagalkot's strong showing. "In Bagalkot, we won by a narrow margin in the last election. This bypoll, our candidate has won by 22,332 votes. In rural areas, families told our workers that the guarantee schemes have improved their lives," he said.

4 kids drown in pond, 1 saved

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chikkamagaluru: Four children, including a girl, died Monday after they drowned in a pond in Chikkamagaluru's Araluguppe, police said.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Rehaman, 9, Nayaz, 12, Madina Banu, 9, and Ahran, 8. Another boy, Arman, was rescued by locals. Banu was from Shivamogga, while the others were locals.

Chikkamagaluru Rural police said the children went to the waterbody for swimming and playing with ducks. They drowned accidentally. The one who was rescued is being treated at the district hospital.

All the bodies were shifted to the mortuary in the district hospital, police said. After postmortem and other formalities, the bodies will be handed over to the parents, a police officer said.

Cops, who have denied foul play, said the exact cause of death will be known after postmortem.

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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Discarding of Old & Inactive Medical Records — HCG
Healthcare Global Enterprises Ltd. Center situated at HCG Towers, #8, P. Kalinga Rao Road, SR Nagara, Bangalore-27 and #44/45, Raja Ramohan Roy Extension, **Bangalore intends to discard Old & inactive Medical Records Files** (OP and IP) for Registration number from 176722 to 225305 for the period of 2020 to 2022. If anyone having an interest or claim on these records are requested to approach the **Medical Records Officer on before 31.05.2026.**
Contact : Medical Records Dept. Ph: 08061566039, Mo: 9611803023
Mr. Shivakumar H
Email: shivakumar.mrd@hcgel.com
Mr.Mahesh C.C Email: mrd.kr@hcgel.com

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SH. ABHISHEK SRIVASTAVA, LD. DJ-05, (CENTRAL), ROOM NO.-317, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF RESPONDENT
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
CS-1191/2022
ROHTASH CHANDRA BHAGAT V/S MS. DIVYA AMIT BALI & ORS.
To,
SH. ARMAN BALIR/O FLAT NO.291, PRESTIGE PARK, BANNERGHATTA MAIN ROAD, GOTTIGERE, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA-560083 ALSO AT-17/4, OLD RAJINDER NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110060.
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons. It is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 19/05/2026 the day fixed for the final disposal. It will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court this, dated: 24/03/2026.
Seal — District Judge Delhi(Central -05)

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Maasti N Gajalakshmi D/o Rangappa Narayan , #40/A, Near Heritage Convention Hall, Thunganagara, Viswaneedam post, Bangalore, Karnataka-560091 I have changed my name to Maasti Narayan Gajalakshmi

I SHAIK ABDULLAH FAREED BASHA # 309 GROUND FLOOR 3RD MAIN 4TH CROSS ISLAMPUR HAL POST BENGALURU-560017, have changed my name to SHAIK ABDULLAH vide affidavit 04-05-2026 before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed # 4932 Blore

I Ranjana aged 50 yrs ,W/o Viveka Rao V Joshi R/o #54, 4th Main Rd, Sanjaynagar, Postal Colony , Blr- 94 have changed my name Ranjana Viveka Rao Joshi vide Affidavit dt 3/5/26 Henceforth, I shall be known Ranjana Viveka Rao Joshi for all Purposes Notary R.Basavaraja Bangalore

I Masthanabi D/O, Hussainsab R/o C102 1st Floor Elegant Suraksha Apartment, 12th Cross Sarakki Main Road Near Sarakki Patalamma Temple, Jp Nagar 1st Phase, Bengaluru - 560078 have changed my name to Sirivella Mastana Bee.

I, Sathyan Veerappa, father of minor Son Tanav S Sidd, hereby declare that the name of my son has been changed from Tanav S Sidd to Tanav Sathyan Sidd.Henceforth, He shall be known as Tanav Sathyan Sidd for all purposes.

I, B R BHARATHI, W/o Late K R Venkatesha Rao, R/o Kaggundi Village, Kesare, Humchadakatte Post, Thirthahalli Taluk, Shivamogga Dist, Karnataka - 577436, hereby declare that my name has been wrongly recorded as K V BHARATHI in my husband's pension records (PPO No. 238010000655). My correct and official name is B R BHARATHI. Both names K V BHARATHI and B R BHARATHI refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself. Affidavit no. IN-KA48849587555983Y dt. 02 May 2026 sworn at Thirthahalli.

I, Mr. Hanumappa S/o Late Chikamarappa, residing at No.232, Kembathalli, B G Road, Bangalore South Bengaluru - 560083, do hereby solemnly declare that ANUMAIAH and HANUMAPPA both the names are one and the same. I further declare that I have changed my name from ANUMAIAH to HANUMAPPA vide Affidavit dated 25.04.2026, sworn before Notary L Puttaraju, Bengaluru.

I Swetha Annangi aged about 45 years w/o Mr.Pasupuleti Ramanujam Residing at No.313, 1st floor, 7th C Main Road, Lane behind Amrik Eye Hopital, HRBR Layout, 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar Bangalore-560043 have changed my name to SWETHA PASUPULETI (Refers to the same person) vide affidavit dated 02/05/2026 sworn before notary Y.R.Chandrasekar.

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Dr. SUNIL BABU. M
MANAGING DIRECTOR - GAYATHRI HOSPITAL
LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 05th MAY 2024
Not a day passes without your remembrance.
You live on in our thoughts, our values,
and the lives we lead.
Family members and Staff of Gayathri Hospital

OBITUARY
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

OBITUARY
Sisters of Notre Dame regret to inform the sad demise of
Aleykutty Pezhumkattil
Fondly known as
Sr. Mary Shobhita SND
(Former teacher, Sophia Opportunity School)

Born: 29/01/1948
Profession: 06/01/1978
Death: 03/05/2026
Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, 05 May 2026 at 9.30 am at Shalom Sadan, Notre Dame Convent, Hinkal, Mysore.

OBITUARY
SAD DEMISE
SAD DEMISE
In Loving Memory of

R S NARAYANAN
(09/11/1946-03/05/2026)
Retired DGM, Vijaya Bank. Consultant: Centillion
Passed away peacefully on 3rd May 2026.
Deeply mourned by
Rayirath Family, Lakkidi, Ottapalam
Kizhake Velath, Pallipuram - (Pattambi)
Leela, Kavita & Vineet
Nishant, Priya & Vir
May his soul rest in peace.

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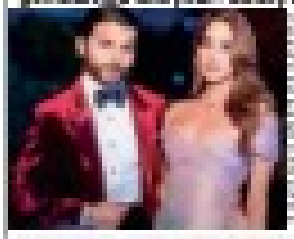
SAD DEMISE

Sanat Kumar Mukherjee
With profound grief informing all our relations that our father passed away on 30th April, 2026. He had been associated with State Bank of India a little over four decades.
Family: Saikat and Ranjana; Saibal and Annesha

WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Janhvi Kapoor and Ishaan Khkhar Ratheriya to get married this year? Boney responds...

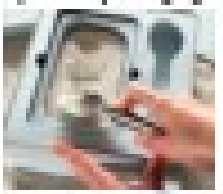


Post Malone delays tour till June to finish new album

Veteran actor Bass Starr passes away at 57

Are actors Aditya Roy Kapur and Tara Sutaria Bollywood's newest couple?

Mia Mia blends sand and ice cream for perfume packaging

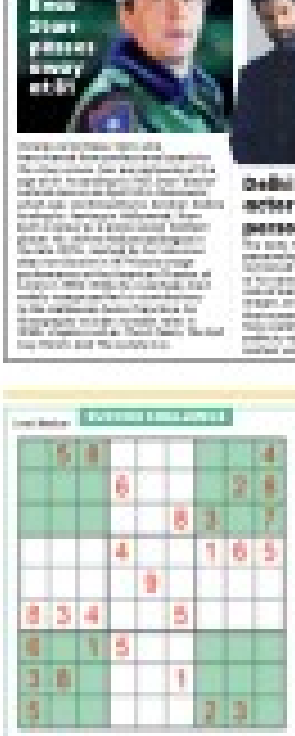


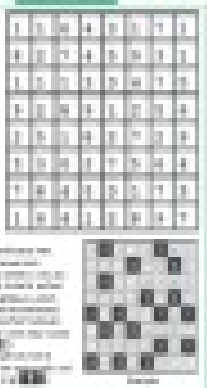
Delhi HC protects actor Arjun Kapoor's personality rights

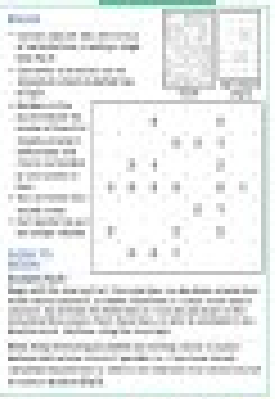
Reclaiming desi maximalism, minus the apology

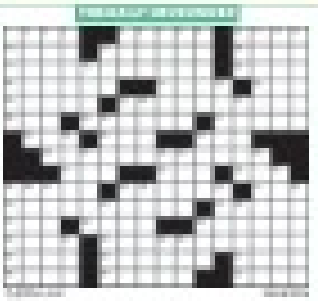
POV

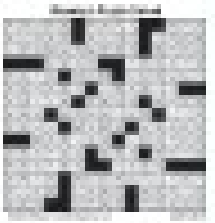
LEISURE

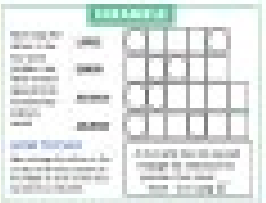


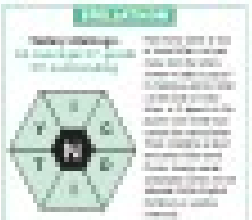


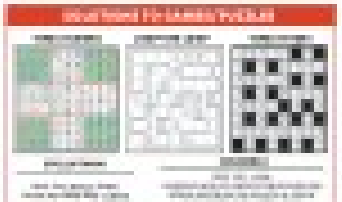












TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026

AHEAD OF SINDOOR ANNIV, RAJNATH SAYS OP SHOWED INDIA'S ADVANCED WARFARE STRENGTH & READINESS

J&K MP ENGINEER RASHID URGES HC TO MODIFY BAIL ORDER SO THAT HE CAN VISIT AILING FATHER

Car ploughs into group helping crash victims, 8 die

Pathikrit.Chakraborty
@timesofindia.com

Lucknow: Eight people, including two brothers, were killed after a speeding car ran over bystanders who had gathered to help victims of a motorcycle collision in Uttar Pradesh's Ambedkar Nagar district early Monday.

The first accident occurred at 12.10am on Akbarpur–Jalalpur Road in Jalalpur area, about 17km from the district headquarters. Police said two motorcycles collided head-on, leaving three riders critically injured, including brothers Aditya Kumar (25) and Divyanshu (22). All were returning from a wedding.

Locals rushed to the spot, attempting to move them to safety and arrange transport to rush them to hospital. Moments later, the speeding car approached, losing control and ploughing into the group. Multiple people were crushed before the car overturned into a roadside ditch, the police said.

Six people were rushed to a health centre (CHC) in nearby Jalalpur but were declared dead on arrival. Among them were brothers Aditya and Divyanshu.Two others were referred to the district hospital and later to Tanda Medical College, where they died. The deceased bystanders were Kaifi (32), Uttam Kumar (24), Lalchand (24), Raju Gupta (32), Sahil (28), and Indresh (30).

Killer of woman & 4 kids shot dead

Lucknow: A 20-year-old man, Aamir Ahmad, wanted in connection with the murder of 35-year-old Gaasiya Khaaton and her four children in Uttar Pradesh, was killed in an encounter with the police while trying to flee towards Nepal. TNN

Didi loses assembly seat, says beaten by 'force, manipulation'

Claims Assault By BJP Workers & Central Forces

Tamaghna.Banerjee
@timesofindia.com

A billboard of Mamata Banerjee being dismantled in Kolkata on Monday

Kolkata: Bhowanipore eventually turned its back Monday on Mamata Banerjee after three terms as the Bengal CM was sliced out of her Kolkata home turf in a knife-edge contest that saw her protege-turned-foe Suvendu Adhikari vanquish her by 15,105 votes.

Mamata struggled to accept the outcome, claiming she and her TMC had been defeated "by force", the election process manipulated and votes "looted" by Adhikari's BJP. Worse, she alleged she had been assaulted by BJP activists and central forces as she made her way out of Sakhawat Memorial High School counting centre after nearly five hours there.

Mamata stayed put since trends showed her trailing by over 10,994 votes after 18th round of counting in the afternoon. In the end, EC pegged the tally at 73,917 votes for Adhikari and 58,812 for Mamata.

Bhowanipore, centrestage of WB's political battlefield, was a cauldron Monday, with the atmosphere surcharged by allegations, counter-allegations and street showdo-wns as tallies swung wildly through the day.

DANCE of DEMOCRACY, P 10-16

Early trends favoured Adhikari, who surged ahead in the opening rounds. But after the third round, Mamata bounced back. She established her dominance by the seventh round, at one point leading by more than 19,000 votes — triggering murmurs that the contest might tilt decisively in her favour.

That perception, however, proved short-lived. Adhikari, claiming Mamata's surge was driven by votes from a minority-dominated pocket, mounted a rapid comeback. By the 12th round, the gap shrunk to just over 7,000 votes and later tightened further to 5,300, setting the stage for a nail-biting finish that echoed the intensity of their 2021 face-off, where Mamata lost to Adhikari in Nandigram. She'd won Bhowanipore in a bypoll later that year.

Tensions peaked further Monday when TMC alleged that its Bhowanipore counting agents had been attacked by BJP and pushed out.

The chief minister, who earlier appealed to her workers to "fight like a tiger cub" and not to leave the counting tables till sunset, rushed to the venue.

As her convoy reached the centre around 3.30pm, BJP supporters erupted in chants of "thief, thief" and "go back," turning the stretch into a cauldron of hostility. Adhikari arrived around the same time.

TMC general secretary and Mamata's nephew Abhishek Banerjee, too, reached the site amid allegations that some BJP supporters spat in his direction and hurled abuses before he was forced to move out.

Mamata's Kalighat home and secretariat office under lockdown, orders issued to secure records

Tamaghna.Banerjee
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Trinamool chief **Mamata Banerjee**'s residence in Kolkata's Kalighat and her office in Nabanna were placed under an unprecedented security lockdown on Monday, even as Bengal's chief secretary Dushyant Nariala instructed all departmental heads to ensure no official documents are removed, damaged or copied without authorisation.

Long before the final results of the assembly polls were declared, central paramilitary forces had ringed Nabanna and stepped up vigil outside the CM's Kalighat residence, as well as at the home of Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, by Monday afternoon.

The deployment came amid celebrations by BJP supporters in parts of Kalighat and sporadic reports of tension in the state as trends showed Trinamool Congress was facing a rout.

Basabdatta Sarkar

Security men outside CM's house

"All Departmental Secretaries and Head of Offices are requested to ensure that no important paper or any file is removed/damaged or otherwise taken out from the offices. No unauthorised copying/scanning shall be permitted. All files/important papers/communication shall be properly accounted for. The Head of Departments and Departmental Secretaries shall personally ensure that this is followed in letter and spirit," the chief secretary's order stated.

Quick response teams were deployed at the main offices of key govt departments.

Election Commission said the steps are purely preventive.

Pilots' body flags fuel-cut risk in Air India Ahmedabad crash probe

Manju.V@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: In a development that could impact the investigation into the June 12, 2025, Air India crash at Ahmedabad that killed 241 people, India's largest pilots' body has placed before the govt a specific, documented electrical failure mechanism that can cut off fuel to both engines of a Boeing 787 simultaneously without any action by the pilots.

The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has addressed a technical letter, backed by documentary proof, to the PMO, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, requesting that the hypothesis be formally tested by IIT Bombay, the Aeronautical Development Agency, or Hindustan Aeronautics Limited before any conclusion is reached on the cause of the accident.

The submission draws entirely on Boeing's own technical manuals, a relay manufacturer's datasheet, and safety investigation reports filed by American and Japanese aviation authorities following a 2013 Boeing 787 battery fire.

This type of failure was documented in the 2013 Japan Airlines battery incidents at Boston and Takamatsu.

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What are French comb pins?

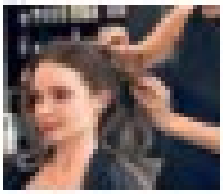
Styling tips

Which pins to invest in

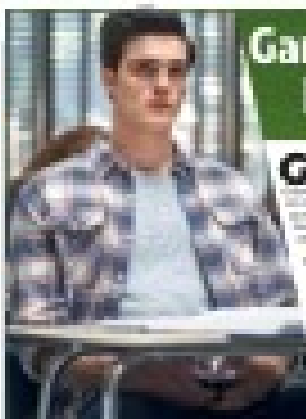
Sunscreen: Beach day essential or threat to corals?

What can you do:

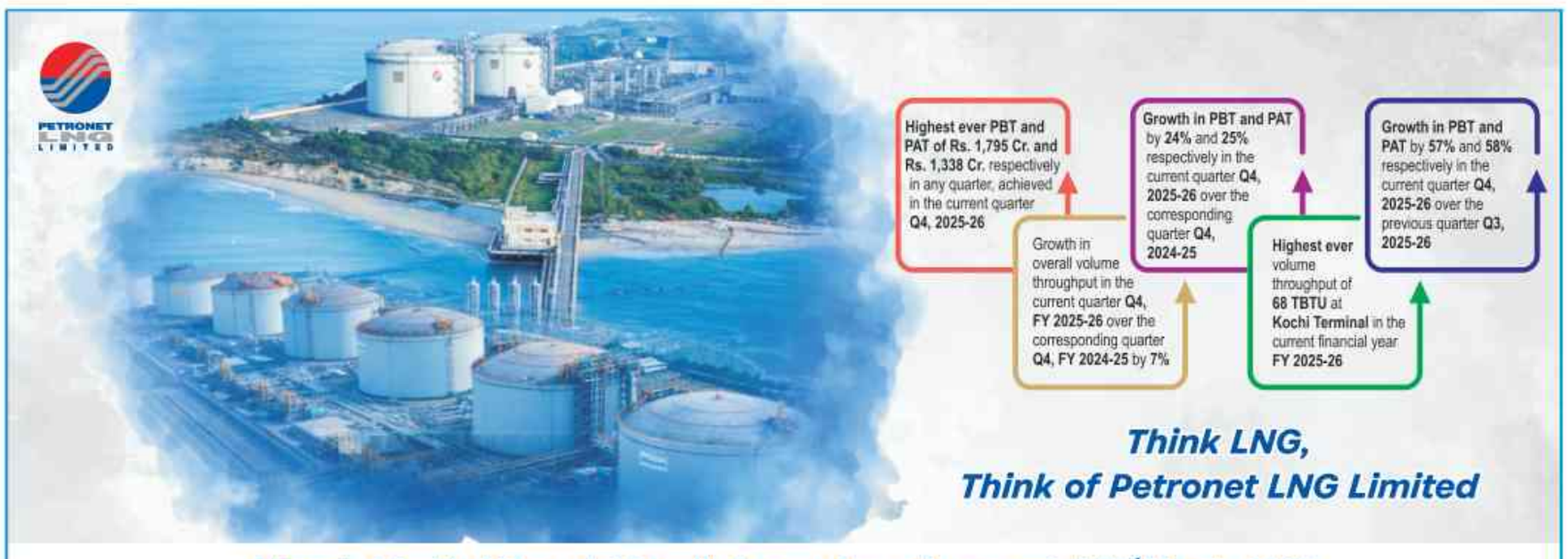
How to: Style hair for every occasion



Garden shed to centre stage: Flannel gets a glow-up



This Summer, style it light and never is easy


PETRONET LNG LIMITED
Highest ever PBT and PAT of Rs. 1,795 Cr. and Rs. 1,338 Cr. respectively in any quarter, achieved in the current quarter Q4, 2025-26
Growth in overall volume throughput in the current quarter Q4, FY 2025-26 over the corresponding quarter Q4, FY 2024-25 by 7%
Growth in PBT and PAT by 24% and 25% respectively in the current quarter Q4, 2025-26 over the corresponding quarter Q4, 2024-25
Highest ever volume throughput of 68 TBTU at Kochi Terminal in the current financial year FY 2025-26
Growth in PBT and PAT by 57% and 58% respectively in the current quarter Q4, 2025-26 over the previous quarter Q3, 2025-26
Think LNG,
Think of Petronet LNG Limited

Extract of Audited Financial Results for quarter and year ended 31st March, 2026

(All amounts are Rupees in crore, unless otherwise stated)

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated				
		Quarter Ended			Year Ended		Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
		31/03/2026	31/12/2025	31/03/2025	31/03/2026	31/03/2025	31/03/2026	31/12/2025	31/03/2025	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
		Audited	Un-audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Un-audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1.	Total income from operations (net)	9,442.09	11,163.83	12,315.75	43,494.91	50,979.56	9,442.09	11,163.83	12,315.75	43,494.91	50,982.03
2.	Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	1,794.97	1,143.81	1,445.83	5,157.55	5,275.18	1,794.39	1,141.00	1,443.11	5,123.90	5,232.87
3.	Net Profit for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	1,794.97	1,143.81	1,445.83	5,157.55	5,275.18	1,794.39	1,141.00	1,443.11	5,123.90	5,232.87
4.	Net Profit from ordinary activities after tax	1,338.05	848.29	1,070.18	3,842.67	3,926.37	1,370.74	869.61	1,094.90	3,912.53	3,972.68
5.	Other Comprehensive Income	2.36	(7.75)	0.49	(5.39)	(6.79)	2.49	(7.72)	2.20	(5.24)	(5.26)
6.	Total Comprehensive Income	1,340.41	840.54	1,070.67	3,837.28	3,919.58	1,373.23	861.89	1,097.10	3,907.29	3,967.42
7.	Equity share capital	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
8.	Other Equity (excluding revaluation reserve)	-	-	-	20,219.66	17,882.38	-	-	-	20,784.82	18,377.53
9.	Earnings per share (Face value of ₹10/- each)										
	a) Basic (₹)	8.92	5.66	7.13	25.62	26.18	9.14	5.80	7.30	26.08	26.48
	b) Diluted (₹)	8.92	5.66	7.13	25.62	26.18	9.14	5.80	7.30	26.08	26.48
		(not annualised)			(annualised)		(not annualised)			(annualised)	

Note:-

1. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at the meeting held on 04th May 2026. The Statutory auditors of the Company have carried out Audit of the aforesaid results.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Statements of Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financials Results, for the quarter and year ended 31st March 2026, filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (listing and other disclosure requirements) Regulations' 2015. The full format of the Statements of Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financials results are available on the websites of National Stock Exchange, the Bombay Stock Exchange and the website of the company (www.petronetlng.in).

Place : New Delhi
Date : 4th May 2026

By order of the Board
Sd/-
Saurav Mitra
Director (Finance) & CFO
(Whole-time Director)
DIN: 07684414

PETRONET LNG LIMITED
Registered Office: 4th Floor, Tower-I, World Trade Center, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi - 110 029, India
CIN: L74899DL1998PLC093073

PETRONET ENERGY LIMITED
Email: info@petronetenergy.in
Website: www.petronetenergy.in
CIN: U11202DL2021PLC377648

PETRONET LNG SINGAPORE PTE. LIMITED
12 Marina View,
#12-05, Asia Square Tower - 2
Singapore - 018961

PETRONET LNG FOUNDATION
Email: info@petronetlngfoundation.org
Website: www.petronetlngfoundation.org
CIN: U85320DL2017NPL315422

Follow us www.petronetlng.in

पूर्वोत्तर आयुर्वेद एवं होम्योपैथी संस्थान
NORTH EASTERN INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA & HOMOEOPATHY
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India)
Mawdiangdiang, Shillong, Meghalaya – 793018

Advt. No. EST-13013/1/2024-Administrative Division/H-73 Dated: 07/04/2026

रिक्ति सूचना /VACANCY NOTICE

पूर्वोत्तर आयुर्वेद एवं होम्योपैथी संस्थान, (भारत सरकार, आयुष मंत्रालय के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्थान), माउडियाँडियाँ, शिलांग, मेघालय – 793018 में अनुबंध के आधार पर बायोस्टैटिस्टिशियन एवं सलाहकार (फार्मेसी) पदों में भर्ती हेतु आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित करता है।

North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Homoeopathy (NEIAH), Shillong is inviting applications for the post of **Biostatistician** and **Consultant (Pharmacy)** on **Contract Basis.**

विवरण के लिए इच्छुक उम्मीदवार संस्थान की वेबसाइट **www.neiah.nic.in** पर जा सकते हैं।

For details, interested candidates may visit the Institute website namely **www.neiah.nic.in**

Sd/-
Dy. Director (Admn), NEIAH, Shillong

CBC 17217/12/0001/2627

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/46/2025-26/193 Date: 04.05.2026

PUBLICATION
[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

RIONA VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED represented by its Chairman **Sri B.V.Prasad and Director Smt.B.V.Sreevani** have applied to this Authority seeking Change of Land use from **"Industrial"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No.46/7 (Old Sy.No.46/1) extent of 00Acre-25Guntas of Chikkathoguru Village, Beguru Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for **Industrial Zone** in approved Master Plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. By developing the Layout in the above said land, General Public will get the sites for reasonable price.
2. During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
3. Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said lands.
4. By Planned layout, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/494/MAA/26-27

राष्ट्रीय प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NATUROPATHY
आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India
निसर्ग ग्राम, येवलेवाड़ी, पुणे Nisarg Gram, Yewalewadi, Pune - 411048
टेलीफोन : 020 - 26059682/3
ई-मेल : ninpune@bharatmail.co.in वेबसाईट : www.ninpune.ayush.gov.in

VACANCY NOTICE

National Institute of Naturopathy, an autonomous body of the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, proposes to fill up the following post.

S.No.	Name of the post	Pay Level/ Remuneration	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Accountant	Level 6 in the Pay Matrix (Rs. 35,400 – 1,12,400), 7th CPC	On Deputation/ Promotion
2.	Nature Cure Physician	Rs. 60,000 (Consolidated)	On Contract

Details of eligibility conditions, terms of employment, method of submission of application, last date for submission of applications, etc. are given in the vacancy notice available on the website of the Institute **www.ninpune.ayush.gov.in**.

CBC 17211/11/0001/2627 **Director (I/c)**

UTKAL UNIVERSITY
VANI VIHAR, BHUBANESWAR-751004, ODISHA
Email: registrar@utkaluniversity.ac.in

Indicative Advertisement for Recruitment of Faculty Positions

No.: Estt.I/1041(Vol-IV)/5130/2026 **Dated: 02.05.2026**

Established in 1943, Utkal University occupies a foundational place in the higher education landscape of Odisha, emerging from an early generation of public universities that helped shape the intellectual architecture of modern India. Headquartered at its Vani Vihar campus in Bhubaneswar–spread across a sprawling ecosystem of 460 acres enriched by nature's bounty and complemented by the Utkal University Rural Campus at Chandikhole, spread over 66 acres, the University anchors an extensive academic network of nearly 430 affiliated colleges across the state. Embedded within the dynamic intellectual geography of South Asia, it aspires to evolve as a global destination for higher learning. Offering 47 academic programmes across diverse disciplines–including the Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Management–and extending from undergraduate to doctoral levels, the University reflects a wide spectrum of academic engagement. Rooted in a distinguished legacy yet responsive to a transforming knowledge order, it advances cutting-edge curricula, fosters innovation and incubation, and promotes transdisciplinary engagements within contemporary knowledge ecologies. Through its commitment to research excellence and evolving pedagogic practices, it sustains a dynamic interface between heritage, convention, and futurity.

Utkal University invites **online applications from eligible Indian citizens** for appointment to the posts of **Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor** against sanctioned positions across various Post-Graduate Departments, in accordance with Letter No. 5322/HE dated 31.01.2026 issued by the Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha..

Disciplines / Departments:

Analytical & Applied Economics; Anthropology; Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology (AIHCA); Biotechnology; Botany; Business Administration; Chemistry; Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE); Commerce; Computer Science; English; Geography; Geology; History; Library & Information Science; Law; Personnel Management & Industrial Relations (PM&IR); Mathematics; Odia; Philosophy; Physics; Psychology; Political Science; Public Administration; Sanskrit; Sociology; Statistics; Zoology.

Eligibility & Qualifications:

Minimum qualifications, eligibility criteria, and service conditions shall be **governed by the UGC Regulations/Notifications, 2018**, as amended from time to time.

Application Process:

The application process shall be conducted **entirely in online mode** through the HIMS portal: **https://hims.odisha.gov.in/home**

Detailed advertisement, including department-wise vacancies and reservation positions, will be available on the University website: **www.utkaluniversity.ac.in** from **15.05.2026** onwards.

Important Dates:

- **Opening of Online Application:** 15.05.2026
- **Closing of Online Application:** 16.06.2026
- **Last Date for Receipt of Hard Copy (Registered/Speed Post):** 29.06.2026

In addition, a hard copy of the downloaded application form along with all relevant documents must be sent to the **Registrar, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar-751004, Khordha, Odisha** within the stipulated timeline.

General Instructions:

Applicants are advised to carefully review all eligibility conditions, qualifications, and procedural requirements before submission.

The University reserves the right to **modify, amend, or cancel** this advertisement, either in part or in full, without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Registrar

IDEMI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
INSTITUTE FOR DESIGN OF ELECTRICAL MEASURING INSTRUMENTS, MUMBAI
वैद्युतिक मापन उपकरण अभिकल्प संस्थान, मुंबई
Government Certificate course on
Industrial Robotics: Fundamentals & Applications
Course Timing- 7.30 PM to 9.30 PM
ऑनलाइन ONLINE
Date-11 to 16 May 2026 Course Duration: 6 Days
Email ID: training@idemi.org Website: www.idemi.org
Content of course- Introduction to Robotics, robot anatomy, Degree of freedom (DoF), performance characterstics, workspace, robot end effector, robot kinematics, motion planning, programming & application and hands on using robot simulators.
Hands on Practical
Course Fees- 4000/-+18% GST (Fees are not refundable)
For Whom-- Engineering & Technical staff, Automation professionals, Student & career changers ,& Educators. Manufactures, Industrialist and interested candidates
After Successful Completion Certificate Will be Issued
QR Code for Registration
Contact -9403566219,8007765693,9869087617

J-17011/418/2022-Admn
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
(Department of Youth Affairs)
GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi-110023
Website: https://yas.gov.in

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Walk-in-Interview for recruitment of Young Professionals on contract basis to be held from 05th – 07th May, 2026 at Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi-110023.

NB: For vacancies, other details and corrigendum, if any, please visit frequently our website **https://yas.gov.in**. No separate notice in this regard shall be published in Newspaper.

Sd/-
Under Secretary to the Govt of India

CBC 47107/11/0002/2627

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH
TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - M.C.P.H. Divn.No.3			
1.	i) Strengthening of Sewerage System by shifting the existing sewer line crossing through House No.1272 to 1376 Block (D & E) to outside for smooth functioning of Sewerage System in Sector 30-B, Chandigarh (under Capital Head:- Sewerage/STP); ii) Strengthening of Storm Water Drainage System in residential area of Block D & E in Sector 30-B, Chandigarh (under Capital Head:- SWD System)." Est. Cost : Rs.1,47,68,336/- EMD : Rs. 2,95,367/- Time Limit : 06 Months Tender Fee : Rs. 3,000/-	05-05-2026 To 18-05-2026 upto 01:00 P.M.	18-05-2026 at 03.00 P.M.

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
M.C.P.H. Divn.No.3, Chandigarh

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/16/2025-26)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004 (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 702/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1	Residential Building Apartment Old No.14, New No.58, Benson Cross Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru. PID No.92-32-58, Aggregating 5840 Sq.ft (UNDER CONSTRUCTION) Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/indpmFp1t5jYvdMu5	14,15,50,000/-	1,41,55,000/-	14,16,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
14th May 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru	21st May 2026 02:00pm to 05:00pm	26th May 2026 Before 5.00 pm	29th May 2026 11.00 am to 1.00 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Date: 30.04.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/483/ZEN/2026-27

MINOR WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Ref No: - 134 (न0 को0)
Govt. of Bihar

Retender for Notice Inviting Quotation

Supply, installation, maintenance and management of IoT enabled solution with sensors and IoT control unit for real time monitoring of the functionality of state tube wells on dashboard including reporting and alert features and 5 years operation and maintenance.

	Particulars	Date & Time
01	Date of Advertisement	04/05/2026
02	Date of Pre-bid meeting	20/05/2026 at 03:00 PM
03	Bid submission start date	25/05/2026 at 10:00 AM
04	Bid submission end date	01/06/2026 at 02:00 PM
05	Technical bid opening date	02/06/2026 at 11:00 AM
06	Financial bid opening date	To be informed later

1. Bids shall be received online only at the website of https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
2. The RFP document can be downloaded from the e –Procurement Portal. The RFP document can be downloaded from the e-Procurement Portal https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in/ BELTRON Bidders have to register themselves on e-bid formats have to be downloaded from e-Procurement Portal and the Tender Document fee will be paid online.
3. Tender processing Fee (TPF) to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS, Net Banking, Credit/Debit Card) only – Cost of BOQ to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT / RTGS, Net Banking, Credit/Debit Card) only.
4. For Support related to e-tendering, bidders may contact Toll free no.-18005726571 (eproc2support@bihar.gov.in).
5. Contact Person For tender related queries.
   (i) Mr. Sunil Kumar (MIS & Analytics Cell Lead), Mob no.-9631949197
   (ii) Mr. Munna Kumar (Assistant Section Officer), Mob no.-9386915758

S/D
Executive Engineer cum Incharge-Nalkup Cell
MWRD, Bihar, Patna.

PR- 002188 (MWRD) 2026-27

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

MSME- TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
एमएसएमई- प्रौद्योगिकी विकास केंद्र
Process & Product Development Centre
प्रक्रिया एवं उत्पाद विकास केंद्र
An Autonomous body under ministry of MSME, Govt. of India Society
EC-Ettumanoor Organizes 06 Days online training on

DIGITAL MARKETING WITH AI: LEAD GENERATION & SALES SYSTEM

COURSE COVERED: • Digital Marketing Foundation + Business Strategy • Website, Landing Pages & Funnel Setup • SEO + Keyword Research Using AI • Google Ads with AI (Performance Marketing) • Social Media Marketing with AI (Content + Ads) • Conversion, Automation & Scaling with AI

For Registration

DATE / दिनांक: *09th, 10th, 16th, 17th, 23rd & 24th May 2026*

TIME / समय: 07 PM - 09 PM **FEES / शुल्क:** 4,720/-

CONTACT: 9092176009 / 9750747571

CERTIFICATION WILL BE AWARDED www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in

JEEVIKA
Rural Development Department, Government of Bihar
Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society
State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Bihar
बिहार सरकार
3rd Floor, Vidyut Bhawan-II, Bailey Road, Patna - 800 021; Ph.: +91-612-250 4980; Fax: +91-612-250 4960, Website : www.brlps.in

Notice inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of partners as Project Implementing Agency (PIA) Under DDUGKY 2.0

1. Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (JEEViKA), invites proposals from agencies with a fresh Permanent Registration Number (PRN) from the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). Prospective PIAs must thoroughly read & comply with the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana 2.0 (DDU-GKY 2.0) Guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP DDUGKY 2.0), and notifications/orders issued by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) Government of India.
2. The proposal can be applied through the portal 'kaushal.rural.gov.in' along with a nonrefundable application fee of Rs 25000/- with applicable GST. The key details are as below:-

Particulars	Details
Total Target	32,511 candidates (including 6,502 for Captive Projects)
Project Period	FY 2026-2028 (Training Completion by Dec 31, 2027)
Application Portal	kaushal.rural.gov.in
Submission Deadline	Within 21 days from the publication of the EOI
Contact person	Gyanesh Singh, Email – pm.jobs@brlps.in Contact number – 9334300428

Note: PIAs who applied against the EOI Ref: BRLPS/Proj-Jobs/2448/25/346 (dated 05-05-2026) is under consideration as per laid down guidelines and will form part of the above mentioned target. Other details related to Eligibility, Appraisal process etc please refer website kaushal.rural.gov.in and www.brlps.in/procurement/tender

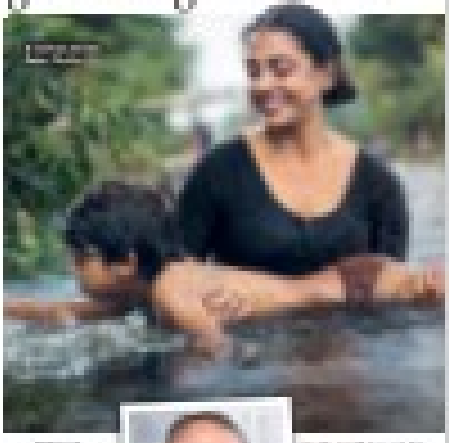
(Himanshu Sharma, IAS)
Chief Executive Officer
BRLPS (JEEViKA), Bihar

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

PR. No.02275 (B&C) 2025-26

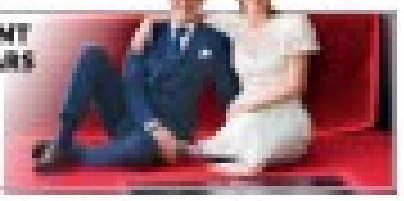
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Balan: The Boy takes a homegrown story to a global stage at Cannes



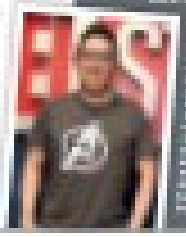
If I'm better than my last film, I feel successful: Saiyami

STANLEY TUCCI, EMILY BLUNT UNVEIL WALK OF FAME STARS



'Shame on you for turning your back on people who gave you power'

Evangeline Lilly blasts Disney for MCU layoffs



My journey into the indie music space has been liberating: Shekhar

Gunshots fired near Kapil Sharma's cafe in Canada

HACK OF THE DAY **CREATE CUSTOM WHATSAPP LISTS FOR BUSY CHATS**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps you separate noisy chats from important ones, so school, family, work, building, and customer chats do not all compete equally

WHAT TO DO: Use WhatsApp Lists as custom filters for the chats you want to check together

STEPS:

1. **Open** the WhatsApp Chats tab
2. **Swipe** down to view your chat lists if the feature is available
3. **Create** a new list for a group of chats, such as Family, School, Work, or Vendors
4. **Add** the chats or groups that belong in that list
5. **Use** the list when you want to check only that category

NOTE: This is useful when your WhatsApp is both personal and professional. It makes the app feel less chaotic

SCAN FOR MORE

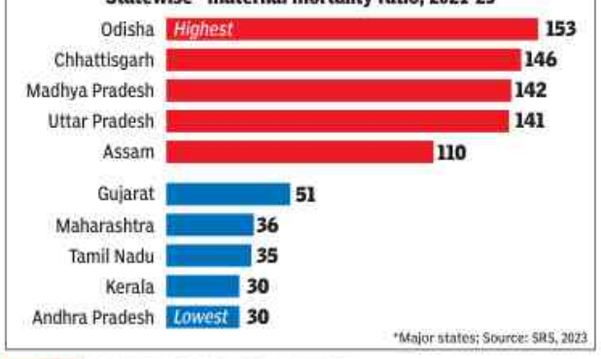
Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Where mothers are most at risk in India

India recorded 88 maternal deaths per one lakh live births overall during 2021-23, but some states reported rates nearly five times higher than the best-performing states

Statewise* maternal mortality ratio, 2021-23



*Major states; Source: SRS, 2023

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU

Women punished oppn for quota bill defeat: PM Modi

▸ Continued from page 1

Women have punished opposition parties for defeating govt's bill to roll out women's reservation in legislatures by 2029, he said, noting Congress benefitted in Kerala only because of people's anger with the Left alliance.

As expected, his party's remarkable victory in Bengal was the main feature of his address, with the PM remembering the founder of Jana Sangh, which later transformed into BJP, Syama Prasad Mookerjee, and projecting the win as a tribute to him and other Bengali icons, including Vande Mataram author Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and Rabindranath Tagore. Bengal is now free of fear, he said, alluding to Tagore's famous poem.

On a day BJP realised its long-cherished dream of bagging Bengal, a state intrinsic to its cultural and nationalism plank but which for decades had proved a tough political nut to crack, it was natural that Modi's speech was rich on cultural symbolism. He recalled his post-Bihar win remarks in Nov last year that as Ganga flows from there to Bengal, so will the BJP's victory march, and noted that BJP now governs every state through which the sacred river flows.

"In Bengal, women will now find an environment of safety and youth will find employment," he said, announcing that the new govt, in its first cabinet meeting, will adopt the Centre's Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme. Stringent action will be taken against infiltrators, PM added, ticking another of BJP's key promises.

BJP will now run govts in 'Anga, Banga and Kalinga' (Bihar, Bengal and Odisha), and this holds immense importance for 'Purvodaya' (rise of eastern region), which is a must given that the country's fortunes fell when they lost their economic and cultural prominence, he said, emphasising that they will now emerge as strong pillars in the rise of "Viksit Bharat" on his govt's watch.

Framing the verdict as an endorsement of his govt's handling of a series of crises triggered by several global upheavals, he said people are voting for stability. The results have shown that India is united in the face of challenges and moving towards its goal of development, he added.

Elections over, govt says no proposal to hike fuel prices

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt on Monday said there was no increase in the retail prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG, amid speculation that rates might go up after the results of the assembly elections in four states and a UT were announced.

Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the ministry of petroleum, said there was no proposal before govt to support oil marketing companies incurring losses due to under-recoveries while keeping the retail prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG frozen.

Replying to a query during a press briefing on West Asia developments, Sharma said govt was trying to protect retail consumers despite high volatility in global crude prices.

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Experience: 20 years or more as on 30.04.2026
Age Limit: 63 years or lower as on 30.06.2026
Experienced professionals may visit the website **ongcindia.com** or **startup.ongc.co.in** for more details and send their Curriculum Vitae and other documents through mail to **aif@ongc.co.in**
Last date for Application: 15.05.2026

रीजनल इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ पैरामेडिकल एंड नर्सिंग साइंसेज़
REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF PARAMEDICAL AND NURSING SCIENCES
(स्वायत संस्थान, अधीनस्थ स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(An autonomous Institute under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Zemabawk, Aizawl, Mizoram - 796017
Website: www.ripans.ac.in | Phone : 0389-2350521 | e-mail: admin@ripans.ac.in
No.A.12019/1/2025-Estt/RIPANS/300 Dated Aizawl the 28th April, 2026
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE No.2 of 2026-27
Applications are invited in prescribed form by the Director, RIPANS, Aizawl, Mizoram from Indian Citizen for the following posts mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Name of Posts	Level	No.of posts	Category
1.	Professor (RIT)	13	01	UR
2.	Professor (Optometry)	13	01	OBC
3.	Associate Professor (RIT)	12	01	PwBD under category(c)
4.	Associate Professor (Physiotherapy)	12	01	OBC
5.	Associate Professor (Dietetics & Nutrition)	12	01	UR
6.	Assistant Professor (Physiotherapy)	10	02	1-UR; 1-PwBD under category (e)

For further details and to download the prescribed application form and the required materials, kindly visit the Institute's website www.ripans.ac.in
Sd/- Dr.SANJAY D.SAWANT, Director, RIPANS

APPELLATE TRIBUNAL
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
4th FLOOR, LOK NAYAK BHAWAN, KHAN MARKET, NEW DELHI-110003.
Landline No. 011-20819916, Email: registry-atfp@gov.in

(To be delivered through Appellant)
FPA-PMLA-4797/BNG/2022

The Branch Manager, Canara Bank ..... Appellant
Versus
The Deputy Director, ED, Bangalore & Ors. .....Respondents

PUBLICATION NOTICE UNDER ORDER 5 OF RULE 20 CPC

1.Respondent-2
Shri Vijay Akkash @ B Rajendran S/o Late Balakrishnan, No. A-302, Grand Heitage Apartment, Kundrathur Main Road, Kovur, Chennai.
2. Respondent-3
Shri Mohammed Mustafa, S/o Usman: Prop. M/s. Ayma international Flat No. 204, 2nd Floor, North Town Apartments, 27th Tower, Otteri, Chennai-600012.
3. Respondent-4
Shri M D Jairam, S/o Late MP Dassapa, R/o 11/3, First Cross, HMS Layout, Cliikkalasandra, Bengaluru-560071.
4. Respondent-5
Shri Nagarjuna @ Raju, S/o Late Ramesh, No. Nil, Metagalli, KRR Road, Lokayanayaka Nagar, Hebbalia Main Road, Mysore-570016.
5. Respondent-6
Shri G Revenna, S/o Ganeshappa, R/o No. 19, 13th D Cross, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560079.
6. Respondent-7
Shri Shaikh Iqbal @ Saleem, S/o A.R. Shaikh, R/o No. 5/9, 1st Floor, 38th Street, Ashok Nagar, Chennai-600083.
7. Respondent-10
Shri Bharath M.B. S/o Late Mallikarjun, R/o No. 424, 8th Main T Thimmaiah Road, Padmanabh Nagar, Bengaluru-560070.
8. Respondent-11
Mr. Krishna Kumar, S/o Mr. Gunasekaran, R/o Flat No. C-2, 2nd Floor, Chidambaram Enclave, 21 CIT Colony, 1st Cross Street, Mylapore, Chennai.
9. Respondent-12
Shri Sumti A Challani, S/o R J Anandmul, R/o No. 2 Ritherdon Avenue, Ritherdon Road, Vepery Road, Chennai-600007.
10. Respondent-13
Shri Cyril Monterio, S/o Francis Monterio, R/o Flat No. 10, Superna Durga Bless, at Site, No. 12, 4th Main Aiyappa Reddy Garden, Yashwanthpur, Bangalore.
11. Respondent-14
Shri Shiva Kumar, S/o Samshettyhally Puttaranganath, R/o No. 100/42, 13th Main, 4th Block Nandini Layout, Bengaluru -560096.
12. Respondent-16
Shri Ashfaq Hussain A, S/o Late Althaf Hussain, R/o No. 24/36, Tipu Sahib Street, Royapettah, Chennai-600014
13. Respondent-17
M/s. Danish Enterprises, R/o No. 15/2, Veeraswamy Street, Pariament, Chennai-600003.
14. Respondent-18
M/s. SN Global Impex, No. 35/37, Wuthucattan Street, Periament, Chennai-600003.
15. Respondent-19
M/s. Amjat Cycle and Company, No. 28, BarracksGate Road, Pattalam, Chennai-6000012.
16. Respondent-20
M/s. Zainab Enterprises, No. 58/59, Mir Bakshi Ali Street., Royapettah, Chennai-600014.
17. Respondent-21
M/s Radhika Enterprises, No. 1/104, Door No. 06, Perumal Kevin Street, Gurugampakkam, Chennai.
18. Respondent-22
M/s.K F Enterprises, No. 2/1, Khana Bagh Street, Chepauk, Chennai-600005.
19. Respondent-23
M/s. SM Industries, No. 41/8, Vandikaran Street, Madhuvanrai, Guindly, Chennai-600032.
20. Respondent-24
M/s Liyakath Agarbatti Company, No. 237, Paper Mills Road, Perumbur, Chennai-600011.
21. Respondent-25
M/s. Unique Agencies, No. 28/81, Millers Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600010.
22. Respondent-26
M/s. AS Air Conditioners, No. A-2, No. 10/15, First Floor, Cithi Vinayaga, Palani Appa Street, Periyar Nagar, Pallavaram, Chennai-600043.
23. Respondent-27
M/s. Asim Internationals No. 43/38, 29th Shivaji Street, GKM Colony, Jawahar Nagar, Chennai-600082.
24. Respondent-29
M/s. Bali Conengineering and Tech Pvt. Ltd. Old No. 250, New No. 341, Regency House, 9th Floor, Opp. To Congress, Ground, Anna Salai, Chennai-600006.

Notice in appeal no. FPA-PMLA-4797/BNG/2022 is issued on the direction of **Hon'ble bench at Appellate Tribunal, 4th Floor, C-Wing, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi.** Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Hon'ble bench that the respondents above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamation under order 5 Rule 20 of CPC is hereby issued against them and should appear personally or through their counsel on **06.05.2026 at 11:00 AM before Appellate Tribunal.**
Take notice that, in default of appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in their absence.

Place: New Delhi
Date:13.04.2026

By Order
Sd/-
Registrar

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By
V. Somanna
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti
05.05.2026 03:00 PM Ramanagaram Railway Station
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PUB/92/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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BJP stole Bengal, Assam polls with EC's help: Rahul

New Delhi: West Bengal and Assam are "clear cases of elections being stolen by BJP with the support of EC", Congress MP Rahul Gandhi claimed Monday, alleging that more than 100 seats were stolen in Bengal.

"We agree with Mamata (Banerjee) ji. More than 100 seats were stolen in Bengal," he said in a post on X. "We have seen this playbook before: MP, Haryana, Maharashtra and Lok Sabha 2024 etc," Rahul added. "Election theft, institution theft — what other option is there now?" he said.

In another post, the leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha said he spoke with TVK chief Vijay to congratulate him on his win in Tamil Nadu. He emphasised that "this mandate reflects the rising voice of the youth, which cannot, and will not, be ignored".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge described the results as a "mixed bag". "However, we must remember that ours is an ideological battle. Such a path demands patience, perseverance and unwavering resolve," he said on X. TNN

Bengal win signals BJP's reach beyond Hindi heartland

▶Continued from page 1

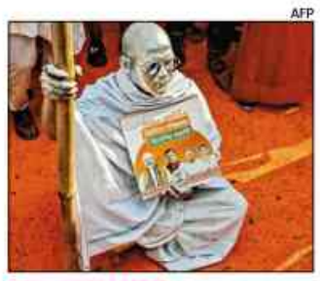
The import of the battle of WB transcends politics. It also signals the possibility of the theme of co-existing with regional distinctiveness, without compromising on its core. It also shows that the Hindi heartland roots of BJP are no longer the fetters they once were. Even in Kerala, BJP managed to win three seats, from none earlier.

It is also a reminder that Modi, with his promise of development, national glory and "tough on security" credentials, can break through the resistance of satraps.

Vijay also shattered the assumptions that had, because of their endurance, turned into certitudes — like the Dravidian duopoly where office had rotated between DMK and AIADMK over last five decades. His senior and "superstar" Rajnikant, who had the potential to challenge the establishment and was urged to take the plunge by his supporters, failed to summon courage. Vijay dared to dream big and has been rewarded for that.

A wave of disgust with corruption and rising crimes against Dalits and women under DMK has brought him to the gates of Fort St George. DMK tried using a crude anti-Hindi and anti-Sanatan plank. It did not work, with a large number of Gen Z voters opting for the new promise: Vijay who, combining freshness with time-tested

AFP



POLL SPECTACLE: A BJP supporter dons Gandhi's outfit

tricks like mangalsutras for women, managed to win over women while also peeling away the support of DMK among Dalits, Christians and Muslims.

His resultant emergence as a stronger vehicle of anti-DMK sentiments seemed to have also helped attract votes that would have otherwise gone to AIADMK. He is on the verge of becoming the first Christian CM of Tamil Nadu, (the fourth one in the south after A K Antony, Y S Rajshekhar Reddy and Jagan Reddy).

The loosening of the duopoly's grip of the state can potentially create opportunities for diverse players: from Seeman to Congress and BJP. Vijay has, in any case, refrained from taking a hardline stand against the north and Sanatanis, and this opens up the possibility of better working ties between Centre and Chennai.

Victory for Congress-led coalition in Kerala comes as a consolation trophy for Congress: something the party desperately needed to make a statement of its presence. But the success carries with itself the challenge of dealing with the perception of rising Hindu sentiment at a time when its dependence on the Indian Union Muslim League and Christian outfit Kerala Congress (Joseph) has grown. Of course, it also has to sort out the leadership issue, with V D Satheeshan unlikely to give up his claim in favour of party brass's favourite — K C Venugopal — who is not an MLA.

For CPM, defeat marks not just loss of the only state where they held office, but further erosion as an electoral force.

BJP's victory in Assam was not in doubt. But its scale came as a surprise

---

11001/26/2627 Annexure-A

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Lokaseva Bhavan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar - 751001
Phone: 0674-2392133 | Website: https://dhe.odisha.gov.in
Mail: sec3hed@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM & CLARIFICATION OF RFP NO.GCNE:02/2026 dt.21.04.2026

Higher Education Department had invited RFP for 'CONSTRUCTION OF COMPLETE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR 18 NEWLY ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT COLLEGES, ONE MDC UNDER RUSA, INFRASTRUCTURE FOR B.ED. COLLEGES, HOSTELS FOR 12 EXISTING GOVERNMENT HEIS, 20 HOSTELS FOR AIDED COLLEGES"

The complete details of corrigendum & clarification are available at **https://dhe.odisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Special Secretary to Govt., GCNE, HED
OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0005

34001/157/2627 E-mail ID : cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in cebuildings@rediffmail.com Tel. (0674)-2391523

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No.- B-II-(OLL&C)-19/2026 15389 / Bhubaneswar, the 4th May, 2026

Invitation for Bids
2nd Corrigendum

Tender Reference No. CE-Bldg-I-02/2026-27

Name of the Works: (1) **"Planning, Design, Construction, Restoration and external development of Biplabi Dharanidhara Sangrahalaya at Kusumita Village in Keonjhar District",**
(2) **"Construction of (S+7) Storied Building near MHI for Infrastructure of Centre of Competence, SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack",**
(3) **"Construction of Community Health Centre at Barkote in the district of Deogarh"**
(4) **"Construction of Additional Classroom and Auditorium Hall at J. N. College, Mahanga in the district of Cuttack"**

The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. **CE-Bldg-I-02/2026-27**
1. Bid documents such as DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**, during the period from **dt.12.05.2026 to 17.00 hours of dt.28.05.2026** instead of dt.04.05.2026 to dt. 19.05.2026 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.
2. **Online** bids shall be received till **17.00 Hours of dt.28.05.2026** instead of dt.19.05.2026.
3. The technical bids will be opened at **11.30 A.M. of dt.29.05.2026** instead of dt.20.05.2026.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Buildings-I, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34001/34117/1/26-27/0013

25001/61/2627

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ବିଂଶାଲ ଘରାଙ୍କ ଅଧିକାରୀ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ବିଂଶାଲ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
(ଫୋନ୍ / ଫାକ୍ସ: ୦୬୮୦୨୫୦୪୦୭, ଇମେଲ୍: ସର୍ବେ...)
ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୦୦୧୧, ଜଲା: ଗଞ୍ଜାମ

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po- Ambapua, Near Income Tax office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail :- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel No. :- 0680-2404287)
E-Mail / E-despatch

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/01-2026-27/BPR

Identification No	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 01-2026-27/BPR	**Road Works under Mukya Mantri Sadak Yojana (MMSY)**	06 Nos	From Rs. 182.16 Lakhs to Rs. 423.07 Lakhs	"B" Class or "A" Class as applicable	Period of Completion as provided as per Col. No. 5 of Annexure of NIT

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur	Online Tender/01-2026-27/BPR	11.05.2026 at 10.00 A.M.	25.05.2026 upto 5.30 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.

Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
R. W. Circle, Berhampur
OIPR-25001/25071/1/26-27/0002

14001/14/2627

STATE COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL TRAINING, ODISHA. ରାଜ୍ୟ କାରିଗରୀ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଏବଂ ବୃତ୍ତିଗତ ତାଲିମ ପରିଷଦ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

SCTE&VT, ODISHA
vcsctevt.odisha@gmail.com, Unit-VIII, BBSR, Odisha-751012, 0674-2392913
RFP No. 784 Dated: 20.04.2026

State Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (SCTE&VT), Odisha. (The Client) invites proposals from the eligible bidders through e-tender process for "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Providing Technical manpower for Electrical & Plumbing services, Multipurpose workers to provide soft skill for examination, affiliation and other activities including Helpdesk, Security manpower Services & Housekeeping Services including Attendants at SCTE&VT, Odisha". Bidders fulfilling the prescribed eligibility criteria of the RFP can access and download the complete RFP Document and other details from **www.tendersodisha.gov.in/ https://sctevt.odisha.gov.in**

The major events under the bid process are:

Sr. No.	List of Key Events	Critical Dates
1	Date of Issue of RFP (e-tender)	02.05.2026
2	Deadline for Submission of Pre-Bid Query	10.05.2026 (by 5:00 PM)
3	Date of Pre-Bid Meeting at SCTE&VT Conference Hall	11.05.2026 (at 11.30 AM)
4	Due date for submission of Bid	25.05.2026 (by 10:30 AM)
5	Date of opening of Technical Proposal & Technical Presentation by bidders.	26.05.2026 (at 10.30 AM)
6	Date of Opening of Financial Bid	To be communicated later
7	Method of Selection	Quality cum Cost Based Selection (QCBS) Method- 70:30
8	Mode of Submission	Online (e-tender) **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

The Bid complete in all respect must be applied through e-tender process latest by 25.05.2026 (by 10:30 AM) clearly mentioning "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Providing Technical manpower for Electrical & Plumbing services, Multipurpose workers to provide soft skill for examination, affiliation and other activities including Helpdesk, Security manpower Services & Housekeeping Services including Attendants at SCTE&VT, Odisha". The proposals received beyond the last date and time will be rejected without assigning any reason. In case of any further modification/ alteration/ amendment shall be published in the websites only. The authority reserves all the rights to reject any/all proposals at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
VC, SCTE&VT
OIPR-14001/14049/1/26-27/0002

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, KHB Shopping Complex
National Games Village, Koramangala, BENGALURU-560 047
Phone: 2571 0501, Fax: 2570 7380
e-mail: rohgml@gmail.com No. CIN U85110KA1947SGC001321

No.: HGM/RO/E-Auction/2025-26 Date: 05.05.2026

NOTIFICATION
INVITING BIDS FOR FIXED DEPOSITS

The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited (HGML) intends to invest its Surplus Funds through e-Auction in the deposits with both Public Sector Banks including RRBs as under:

Sl.No	Public Sector Banks including RRBs (Non-Callable FD)	Period of Investment
1	Rs. 400.00 Crores	One Year (365 days)

The details of the e-Auction of this tender can be downloaded from the e-Portal of the Government of Karnataka at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **05.05.2026.**

The Schedule of events for e-auction are as under

1) Uploading of bid documents in e-portal: **06.05.2026, 12.00 Noon. 2)** Last date to upload the declaration in Annexure-A in the e-portal: **14.05.2026 on or before 1.00 PM. 3)** Live bidding for interest rates: **18.05.2026 between 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM.**

Sd/-
Managing Director
DIPR/CP/498/SA/2026-27

THE LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Engineer (CON)/II, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following works. Following tenders have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenders will be closed **at 12.00 hrs.** on due date. **Sl.No.**-1. **e-Tender Notice No.: 4626-GRC-CE-C-II-10-2026, Date: 30.04.2026. Brief Description of work:** Execution of work for Yard remodeling works at Bero, Muradi, Madhukunda & Damodar in connection with Chandil-Anara-Burnpur 3rd line Project under the jurisdiction of Dy CE/Con/ Adra. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 72.01 Crore. **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,44,02,100. **Sl.No.**-2 **e-Tender Notice No.: 4635-GRC-CE-C-II-18-2026, Date: 30.04.2026. Brief Description of work:** Execution of work for Yard remodeling works at Chawapall, Kushtaur, Bagalia, Anara, Garh Dhrubeswar & Joychandi Pahar in connection with Chandil-Anara-Burnpur 3rd line Project under the jurisdiction of Dy CE/Con/Adra. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 81.22 Crore. **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,62,44,300. **Completion Period:** 30 months (for Sl.No. 1 & 2). **Closing Date:** 29.05.2026 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2). Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for these items will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. **(PR-110)**

MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
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Subject Expert: Kidambi Srinivasan 36 Hrs Only Week-end (Sat & Sun)

Start Date:	Time:	Fees:
09th May 2026	06.00 pm - 09.00 pm	Rs. 7,080/-

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Registered & Head Office : B/h. Lokayukt Bhavan, "Chh" Road.Sector 10-B, Gandhinagar-382010.
Website: www.gsphc.gujarat.gov.in E-Mail: gsphc@gujarat.gov.in, Phone: (079) 23256801-06
CIN : U45201GJ1988SGC011453

"Expression of Interest for Aluminium Shuttering Form work (Based on MIVAN Technology) with all necessary fittings manufacturer / brands to empanel with GSPHCL"

The Gujarat State Police Housing Corporation invites proposals from reputed "Project Management consultancy" firms for **"The Empanelment of Project management consultants for providing Comprehensive services including planning, architectural/interior services, detail design, structure design, MEPF services design, construction supervision, quality control and quality assurance for Building infrastructure Project works using Aluminium form work and Monolithic RCC technology."** to carry out Pre-tender and Post-tender activities for the 'Proposed Construction of Residential/Non-residential building projects of Police department at various locations of Gujarat'. The last date for submission of the queries is **10th May, 2026, 18:00 hrs**. The last date for submission (physical only) of the proposals is **25th May, 2026, 18:00 hrs.** The Criteria for pre-qualification as well as other terms and conditions will be available only on the website of the Corporation, **www.gsphc.gujarat.gov.in** in the Tender Section. You are informed to check the website of the Corporation. Any changes in the terms and conditions as well as the last date of submission will be put up only on the website of the corporation.

Managing Director

U.P. State Road Transport Corporation
Parivahan Bhawan, Tent Kothi, 5 MG Marg, Lucknow-226001 (U.P.)

NIT No. 108/PPP/CELL/2025-03/PPP/2023 VOL-2 Dated 04/05/2026

CORRIGENDUM
DEVELOPMENT OF BUS STATIONS ON PPP MODEL

Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) is pleased to announce the publication of corrigendum in the tender for selection of developer for the development of bus stations under UPSRTC on a PPP model.

Prospective bidders can download the corrigendum document containing response to the queries received through Pre Bid Meeting. The corrigendum is available for download on the official website https://www.upsrtc.up.gov.in and https://etender.up.nic.in

Submission Deadline

All interested and competent bidders are requested to submit their proposals no later than **16:00** hrs **IST** on June **8th, 2026**

Managing Director

BANK NOTE PAPER MILL INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of SPMCIL-A Govt. of India Enterprise and BRBNMPL-A subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India)

TENDER NOTICE 05.05.2026

Bids are invited from eligible firms for the following services/items for Bank Note Paper Mill India Pvt Ltd, Mysuru.

S.N.	PQB / TENDER No	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	QTY
1	BNPM/NCB/25/2026-27	APPOINTMENT OF A CONSULTANT TO PROVIDE PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR SETTING UP OF TWO ADDITIONAL BANKNOTE PAPER PRODUCTION LINES WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 12000 TPA AT BNPM, MYSURU.	1 LUMPSUM
2	BNPM/PQB/26/2026-27	MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF 2MM COLOURSHIFT SECURITY THREAD FOR INDIAN BANKNOTE PAPER PRODUCTION.	3,00,000 KM PER ANNUM

For details and downloading of the document, please visit our website www.bnpmindia.com. Addendum/corrigendum/clarifications, if any, shall be displayed only on the website.

BOI Bank of India
Head Office, IT (Governance & Excellence) Department, Star House-3, PNB-BOI Tower, C-29, G Block, 10th Floor, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051.
E-mail: Headoffice.ITProc@bankofindia.bank.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR
End-to-End Procurement, Implementation, Management and Support of Security Solutions
Ref No: BOI:HO:IT(G&E): InfoSecSol:0137, Dated 29.04.2026
GeM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7489200, Dated 29.04.2026
The captioned RFP is available on Bank's corporate website www.bankofindia.bank.in under "Tender" section & GeM portal.
Subsequent changes if any, will henceforth be uploaded on the Bank's website & GeM portal.
The last date of bid submission: 20.05.2026

Samagra Shikshana-Karnataka
State Project Director Office, Annexe Building of Commissioner, Dept. of School Education, Nrupatunga Road, Bengaluru-560001
No. SSK/TALP/PAB/1/2025-JDQ/96321 Date: 04.05.2026

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Samagra Shikshana Karnataka invites Call-2 e-tenders through the e-Procurement Portal from eligible **Pan-India OEMs and OEM-authorized dealers for the Establishment of Smart Classrooms in 3767-Government Elementary, Secondary, Senior Secondary and 91 KGBV (Type 1 & Type 4) Schools across the State for the year 2025-26. The scope of work includes supply, installation, testing, commissioning and training of Interactive Display Board, UPS-1 KVA Line Interactive with Battery and LED Projector equipments** as specified in the tender document. Tender (IFT No.SSK/TALP/PAB/1/2025-JDQ/E-65010) Details are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Last date and time for submission of tender: **23.05.2026 up to 5:00 PM**

Sd/- State Project Director
Samagra Shikshana Karnataka, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER SURVEY SETTLEMENT & LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT
K.R.Circle, Bangalore-560001, Ph: 91-080-22212408, Fax: 91-080-22277528.
No: SSLR:E-2097784/2026-27 Dated: 04.05.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Inviting tenders for Procurement of total 900 Nos. of Modern Technology Survey Equipment - ROVERS for four divisions of Survey Department (225 Nos. for each Division) – Reg.

With regard to above subject, the Survey, Settlement & Land Records Department, Government of Karnataka, intends to procure 900 numbers of Modem Technology Survey Equipment - ROVERS. The bids are invited from interested and eligible agencies to provide these ROVERS.
Four E-Tenders are invited separately for each division namely Mysore, Banglaore, Kalburgi & Belagavi. Agencies may submit their bids for 225 ROVERS for each division separately as per terms and conditions mentioned in "Request for Proposal (RFP)". The RFP is available in e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 04-05-2026**. Interested and eligible agencies may register at the Centre for E-Governance, Govt. of Karnataka to participate in the said bidding process. Last date for submission of bids is **19-05-2026.**

Sd/- K. Jayaprakash
Additional Director, Survey Settlement & Land Records Department
K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001
DIPR/CP/499/Shirdi Sai/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SERVICES,
Office of the Commissioner, Pashupaalana Bhavana, 1st Floor, Opp. to CBI Office, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560 024.
Email : commissionerahvs@gmail.com **Ph:** 080-23412767

No: CAH/VMS/CR-51/KA.NI & BHA/TENDER/2026-27 Date: 04.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KPP portal mode only)

The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore hereby invites bids through KPP-portal from eligible bidders TENDER FOR PROVIDING SERVICES OF HOUSEKEEPING, GARDENER, ELECTRICIAN ,PLUMBER AND SECURITY TO PASHUPALANA BHAVANA ON WORK CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR 2026-27 for which the tendered Amount is **Rs. 45.00 lakhs.**
Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **Dtd: 04.05.2026** and tenderers can upload all the necessary documents through KPP portal from **04.05.2026 to 19.05.2026 till 17.30 hours**.
Further information can be obtained from KPP Portal and this office during office hours.

Sd/- Deputy Director, Veterinary Medical Stores
Department Of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services,
DIPR/CP/493/NR/2026-27

SHRI SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST, SHIRDI
At.Post. Shirdi, Tal-Rahata, Dist. A.Nagar - 423 109
Phone No.(02423) 258500/771/772,
Fax No.02423-258870
(Website - www.sai.org.in)
E-mail - purchase@sai.org.in

E-Tender Notice

E-tenders are invited from Manufacturers Only for the supply of Pure Cow Ghee for our Laddu Nirmiti, Prasadalaya & Temple Department for the year 2026-27.
01. E-Tender Information, Criteria and terms & conditions are available on Sansthan's website www.sai.org.in
02. The E-Tender is available for Downloading & Uploading from 02/05/2026 11.00 AM to 09/05/2026 up to 5 PM. on Government website www.mahatenders.gov.in

Goraksha Gadilkar, I.A.S
Chief Executive Officer,

DGIPR 2026-27/565

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560052.
No: EE/SJN/E-PROC/08/2026-27 Date: 04-05-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer Shivajinagara Division, BCCC, Bengaluru for the Works mentioned below from the registered Contractors of BCCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing PMC Service for Comprehensive Development Works to M. Ramaswamy Palya Doddamma Temple Surroundings in Ward No. 62. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs): 500.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
2	Providing PMC Service for Comprehensive Development Works to M. Ramaswamy Palya Gangamma Temple Surroundings in Ward No. 62. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs): 500.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
3	Providing PMC Service for Comprehensive Development Works to 165 Quarters Surrounding in Ward No. 62. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs): 500.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 05-05-2026 at 11.00 Hours. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **13-05-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date for Submission of Tender Document: **14-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Bids: **15-05-2026 at 11.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Shivajinagara Division, BCCC.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (Climate Management Cell and Lakes), Zone-1, 9th Cross, 9th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru–560011
No.: EE/CMC&Lakes, Zone-1/Tend-01/2026-27 Date: 04.05.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Greater Bengaluru Authority or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Annual Maintenance of Gattigere (Sompura) and Talagattapura Lake. **Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Lakh): 25.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000/-.**
2	Annual Maintenance of Jogi Kere, Lingadheeranhalli-13 and Bayyappanapalya Kunte Lake. **Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Lakh): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) The tender document shall be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website from: **06.05.2026 after 4:00 p.m. (2)** Last date for receipt of tenders: **19.05.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (3)** Opening of bid: **21.05.2026 at 4:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Climate Management Cell and Lakes, Zone-1, Bengaluru South City Corporation

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SERVICES,
Office of the Commissioner, Pashupaalana Bhavana, 1st Floor, Opp. to CBI Office, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560 024.
Email : commissionerahvs@gmail.com **Ph:** 080-23412767

No: CAH/VMS/IAH & VB/EQUIP/Re-Tender/2025-26 Date: 04.05.2026

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KPP portal mode only)

The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore hereby invites bids through KPP-portal from eligible bidders SHORT TERM TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENTS TO REGIONAL ANIMAL DIAGNOSTIC LABAROTOREIS OF IAH & VB UNDER RIDF TRANCH-28 FOR THE YEAR 2025-26 for which the tendered Amount is **Rs. 422.60 lakhs.**
Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **Dtd: 04.05.2026** and tenderers can upload all the necessary documents through KPP portal from **04.05.2026 to 19.05.2026 till 17.30 hours**.
Further information can be obtained from KPP Portal and this office during office hours.

Sd/- Deputy Director, Veterinary Medical Stores
Department Of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services,
DIPR/CP/488/NR/2026-27

REC POWER DEVELOPMENT AND CONSULTANCY LIMITED
(A wholly owned subsidiary of REC Ltd.)

GLOBAL INVITATION (Through e-bidding Only)
FOR SELECTION OF TRANSMISSION SERVICE PROVIDER THROUGH TARIFF BASED COMPETITIVE BIDDING (TBCB) PROCESS ON BUILD, OWN, OPERATE AND TRANSFER (BOOT) BASIS FOR 04 (FOUR) INTRA – STATE TRANSMISSION PROJECTS IN MAHARASHTRA STATE

REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited, New Delhi, India (a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Undertaking) invites proposal for development of the below mentioned transmission projects through TBCB process on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis following single stage two envelope process of "Request for Proposal (RFP)". Interested bidders may refer to the Request for Proposal (RFP) notifications and RFP documents available on our websites www.recpdcl.in & www.recindia.nic.in w.e.f. 05.05.2026.

The bidders may obtain the RFP documents on all working days between 1030 hours (IST) to 1600 hours (IST) from 05.05.2026 to one day prior to bid submission date on payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Only) or US$ 7000 (US Dollars Seven Thousand Only) + 18% GST for each transmission project as per details provided in the respective RFP documents available on the websites www.recpdcl.in & www.recindia.nic.in.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can also be downloaded from our websites www.recpdcl.in & www.recindia.nic.in, however, in such cases interested parties can submit Response to RFP only on submission of non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,00,000/-(Rupees Five Lakh Only) or US$ 7000 (US Dollars Seven Thousand Only) + 18% GST for each transmission project as per details provided in the respective RFP document. The survey report & clarifications to RFP documents shall be issued to those bidders, who have obtained/ purchased RFP documents by paying requisite fee. The important timelines in this regard are as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Last Date for seeking clarifications	Last Date for submission of Response to RFP	Details of Opening of Response to RFP
1.	Establishment of 400 kV GIS Solapur/ Paranda Switching Station (Dist Dharashiv)	25.05.2026	07.07.2026 up to 1500 Hrs (IST)	07.07.2026 at 1530 Hrs (IST)
2.	Establishment of 765 kV AIS Parli (District- Beed)	25.05.2026	07.07.2026 up to 1600 Hrs (IST)	07.07.2026 at 1630 Hrs (IST)
3.	Establishment of 400 kV AIS Yavatmal (Babhulgaon) (Dist. Yavatmal)	25.05.2026	08.07.2026 up to 1500 Hrs (IST)	08.07.2026 at 1530 Hrs (IST)
4.	Establishment of 220 kV GIS Kesurdi (Dist. - Satara)	25.05.2026	08.07.2026 up to 1600 Hrs (IST)	08.07.2026 at 1630 Hrs (IST)

All corrigenda, addenda, amendments, time extensions, etc. to the RFP will be hosted on our websites **www.recpdcl.in** & **www.recindia.nic.in**. Bidders should regularly visit our websites to keep themselves updated.

Note: RECPDCL reserves the right to cancel or modify the process without assigning any reason and without any liability. This is not an offer.

Chief Executive Officer
REC Power Development and Consultancy Ltd.
Core - 4, SCOPE Complex, 7, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003, India

Bid Process Coordinator: REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited
An Initiative of: Government of Maharashtra
Initiative Partner: State Transmission Utility Maharashtra

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Is small-town India shifting from gold and property to portfolios?

Investors from Tier-2 & -3 cities embrace stocks and mutual funds, but gaps in advisory may leave many vulnerable

Sanket.Dhanorkar@timesofindia.com

India's equity cult is no longer confined to its urban metropolises. Its aspirational hinterlands are experiencing a cultural shift — emerging as keen participants in wealth creation rather than just spectators.

For Sapal Dorjee, 53, a small-business owner based in Leh, this is a journey he has lived through first-hand. Starting a monthly systematic investment plan (SIP) of Rs 2,000 in 2000, Dorjee has gradually hiked his SIP commitments. He now invests Rs 1 lakh monthly towards meeting his goal of amassing Rs 3-4 crore by age 60. "I was among those who preferred the safety of bank fixed deposits, but came to realise the wealth creation power with long-term investing through equity mutual funds," Dorjee asserts.

Sapal Dorjee, 53
Leh (Ladakh)
Business owner

- Invested in bank FDs and small savings earlier
- Started Rs 2,000 monthly SIP in equity funds in 2000
- Gradually hiked SIP outlay, now invests Rs 1 lakh

"I initially preferred the safety of bank FDs, but later realised the wealth creation power of long-term equity investments

Nitin Nautiyal, 48
Dehradun (Uttarakhand)
Content producer

- Shifted to Dehradun from New Delhi during Covid-19
- Initial investments in Delhi property
- Started investing in mutual funds and ULIPs later; also bought land parcels in Dehradun

"Even though incomes in smaller towns are lower, they don't enter the rat race and are comfortable with their standard of living

Stepping Out Of Comfort Zone

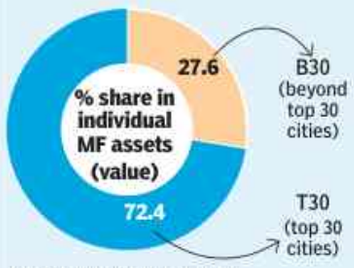
Smaller towns are shedding their affinity for real estate and precious metals. It is evident in the surge in demat accounts and mutual fund folios in recent years. Demat accounts crossed 21.6 crore in Dec 2025, with the majority of growth coming from non-metro areas, according to National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL). As of Feb 2026, investors from beyond the top 30 cities (B30) now account for 27.6% of total individual mutual fund assets, per the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi). SIP volumes from B30 locations have now surpassed T30 cities, with new SIP registrations from these places now accounting for 56% of total incoming volumes.

Nilesh Shah, MD and CEO, Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund, says, "Traditionally dominated by physical assets like land and gold, the culture is steadily shifting towards financial instruments." This is not a temporary shift, insists Dinesh Thakkar, MD, AngelOne. "It feels like a structural change in how the next set of investors is coming in. They are no longer approaching markets with a short-term mindset; the focus is shifting towards building long-term wealth for goals like buying a home or achieving financial independence."

Technology has been the biggest enabler behind this shift. "Digital execution and Aadhaar-based KYC (know your customer) have eliminated earlier barriers, making investing seamless even in small-town towns," says Kotak MF's Shah. Fintech platforms have led the way in driving adoption among tech-savvy younger investors from small towns.

Beyond top 30 cities now account for fourth of MF assets

Financialisation of savings is now evident in smaller towns



Source: AMFI, Crisil Intelligence
As on Feb 2026

B30 investor base is growing at a faster clip

Smaller cities now account for 58% of investors

Source: CAMS, CII 2025 report 'B30 locations - Performance & Potential'

What Sets Them Apart

The investment priorities and mindset in India's tier-2 and tier-3 cities differ from those in its larger cities in many ways, driven by distinct circumstances and financial journeys. Aditya Shankar, co-founder, Centricity WealthTech, says, "Compared to metro investors, who are more open to taking risks, small-town investors tend to rely more on trust and focus on long-term financial stability."

He points out that even as investors in smaller towns are becoming more aware of the markets, their mindset remains cautious. This may be partly explained by the erratic nature of income for many individuals. "In smaller towns, episodic liquidity shapes a cautious but return-focused investor mindset," says Prashant Shah, CEO of Definedge Securities. Investors' outlay is also very nominal. Nearly a third of the investor base in B30 cities had assets of less than Rs 10,000, while a fifth held assets between Rs 10,000 and Rs 50,000, as shown by data from a 2025 CAMS-CII report titled 'B30 locations — Performance & Potential'. Nearly 63% of investors held less than Rs 1 lakh in MF assets.

Ajay Kumar Yadav, group CEO & CIO, Wise Finserv, says small-town investors' relationship with risk looks thoughtful. "Market volatility is acceptable; permanent loss of capital is not. SIPs are preferred, and holding periods tend to be longer." The growing popularity of SIPs reflects that most investors are comfortable starting small and investing regularly, as they are sensitive to losses, Shankar says.

A Milieu Of Influences

However, this journey towards wealth creation has not been linear. Many investors grapple in the darkness, depending on unverified tips or suggestions, making them vulnerable to losses. Lacking awareness and tempted by the prospect of instant riches, many investors have made costly mistakes. "Many residents, lured by quick-money dreams, first entered speculative arenas — F&O trading, online gaming, and influencer-driven tips. Heavy losses often served as expensive lessons," Nilesh Shah says.

While digital execution is easy, a big gap in understanding remains. "Participation still lags awareness, financial literacy is limited, and many investors struggle with risk understanding. A lack of trust and a strong preference for guaranteed returns still hold many investors back from fully participating in the markets," maintains Shankar. Fintech platforms have improved access, but are not always nudging investors in the right direction. There is little appreciation for asset allocation among B30 cities. There is a clear product penetration gap that needs to be corrected.

AngelOne's Thakkar says, "Many households in smaller towns are now familiar with equities and MFs, but their use of complementary products such as insurance, fixed income products, or goal-based solutions is still limited."

As India's smaller towns chart their path towards financial freedom, there is clearly a need for more credible, well-rounded advice. "Opening a demat account is access. Becoming a disciplined investor is behaviour. That gap is where the real opportunity lies," says Thakkar.

Can your pension double up as medical safety net?

Preeti.Kulkarni@timesofindia.com

A retirement fund that offers room to make withdrawals for healthcare needs: that's the key proposition of the NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme, announced by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in Jan as a proof of concept (PoC) under its regulatory sandbox framework.

It is a limited-duration scheme launched on a pilot basis. Two versions have been rolled out so far: one by ICICI Prudential Pension Fund-Apollo Hospitals-Kfintech (PoC 1), and another by Axis Pension Fund, Tata Pension Fund, Aditya Birla Health Insurance, CAMS, and MediAssist (PoC 2).

Swasthya Vs Health Policy

The scheme is not meant as an alternative to health insurance. "It is aimed at providing another source of funds in times of medical emergency," says Sumit Mohindra, CEO of ICICI Prudential Pension Fund.

It can also step in if the health cover is inadequate or has co-pay or room rent sublimits, which force policyholders to bear a part of the claim burden.

"Subscribers can use their funds for hospitalisation as well as diagnostics, pharmacy and dental care — areas where standard policies often fall short," says Sumit Shukla, MD and CEO, Axis Pension Fund.

Swasthya account can only be created if you already have the primary retirement — common scheme — account or open one. Non-government subscribers above the age of 40 can transfer up to 30% of their contributions from their NPS common scheme account to the Swasthya account.

The Proposition

At present, NPS subscribers can partially withdraw up to 25% of their contribution four times in their tenure. "In Swasthya, there is no limit on the number of withdrawals. Secondly, in a few clicks, authorisation for the payment is done to the health service provider," says Mohindra.

Under PoC 1, the ICICI Prudential-led group allows subscribers to avail themselves of hospitalisation and outpatient department (OPD) services at Apollo Hospitals in Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Payments are authorised directly, and the offering also includes discounts on medicines, diagnostic tests and OPD services.

Under PoC 2, the claims will be settled via MediAssist, a third-party administrator (TPA), across its network of hospitals on a cashless basis. PoC2 also offers an optional top-up cover of up to Rs 30 lakh, at a cost of Rs 2,499 a year. The maximum age at entry for this group policy is 60 years. "This cover supports both cashless and reimbursement claims across 18,000 hospitals in over 1,000 cities," Shukla says.

At a glance

- PFRDA-backed limited-duration, pilot scheme under regulatory sandbox framework
- Allows partial NPS withdrawals to fund healthcare needs
- Payment made directly to the hospital/via TPAs
- Two options at present:

PoC 1: ICICI Prudential + Apollo + Kfintech

PoC 2: Axis Pension, Tata Pension, Aditya Birla Health, CAMS & MediAssist

WHAT WORKS

- Additional fallback option during medical emergencies
- Entities involved currently promise instant access
- Tax-free withdrawals, lower costs, unlike mutual funds

WHAT DOES NOT

- Dilution of the primary goal, which is retirement
- Withdrawals restricted to **25%** of own funds for regular needs
- Volatility risk in times of emergencies

What Works, What Doesn't

Why not have a dedicated medical corpus via large cap equity mutual funds — to beat healthcare inflation — or fixed deposits, if you must withdraw from your own savings?

Payments to TPAs or hospitals are instant under Swasthya. MF redemptions also attract tax: gains above Rs 1.25 lakh on equity funds held for over a year attract long-term capital gains tax of 12.5%. "Withdrawals from NPS are completely tax-free," points out Shukla.

On the flip side, you can withdraw only up to 25% of your own NPS contributions. "Also, given that the existing healthcare and health insurance payment ecosystem itself is already quite complex and not always customer-friendly, it remains to be seen how smoothly this will operate," says says Puneet Oberoi, a financial planner and founder of Finwise Services.

According to Mohindra, the PFRDA is monitoring the time taken for claim authorisation on digital platforms, which will influence how the product evolves if it is regularised.

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ASK THE EXPERTS

If a health insurance claim is rejected due to errors or omissions in hospital records despite full disclosure, what is the best way to resolve it? — *S Kumar*

Such cases are often driven by documentation mismatches. Even minor inconsistencies can lead to rejection. So, identify the exact discrepancy flagged by the insurer and align it in the records. This typically involves approaching the hospital or treating doctor to issue a clarification. Once corrected, these documents can be resubmitted to the insurer with a request for reconsideration. If the policy was purchased through a digital platform or intermediary, you may seek their support. If the claim is still not reversed, you can escalate the matter. Start with the insurer's grievance redress mechanism, which, as per IRDAI guidelines, is required to respond within defined timelines. If the response remains unsatisfactory, the matter can be escalated through the IRDAI Integrated Grievance Management System, and thereafter to the insurance ombudsman.

Sarbvir Singh
Joint group CEO, PB Fintech

As a single working mother of a 13-year-old, living in Delhi, how should I plan for my child's higher education abroad and marriage, while also securing my own emergency needs? I have a corpus of Rs 2 crore so far. — *Rashmi C*

You need to manage your financial goals as listed: emergency fund, child's higher education, your retirement, and your child's marriage. A financial adviser can help segregate these goals as short-term (emergency), medium-term (higher education and marriage), and long-term (retirement). The adviser will also help identify the inflation-adjusted corpus required for each goal based on present value cost, time horizon, and real return. Once the corpus for each goal is identified, allocate your existing resources based on priority and time horizon. The asset allocation for the investible amount should be based on goal priority, time horizon, market conditions, and a strategic asset allocation plan, combining equity, debt, gold, and cash, along with a further break-up into sub-asset classes within each category.

Dilshad Billimoria
MD & chief financial planner, Dilzer Consultants

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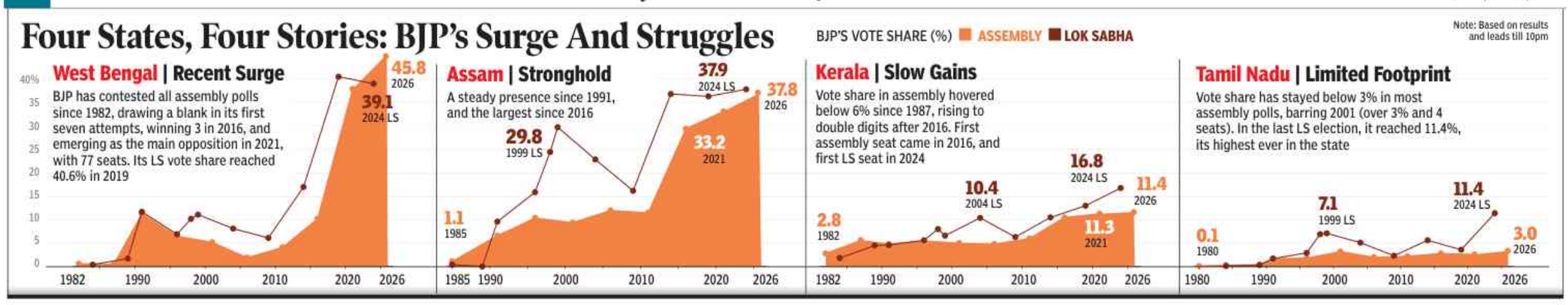
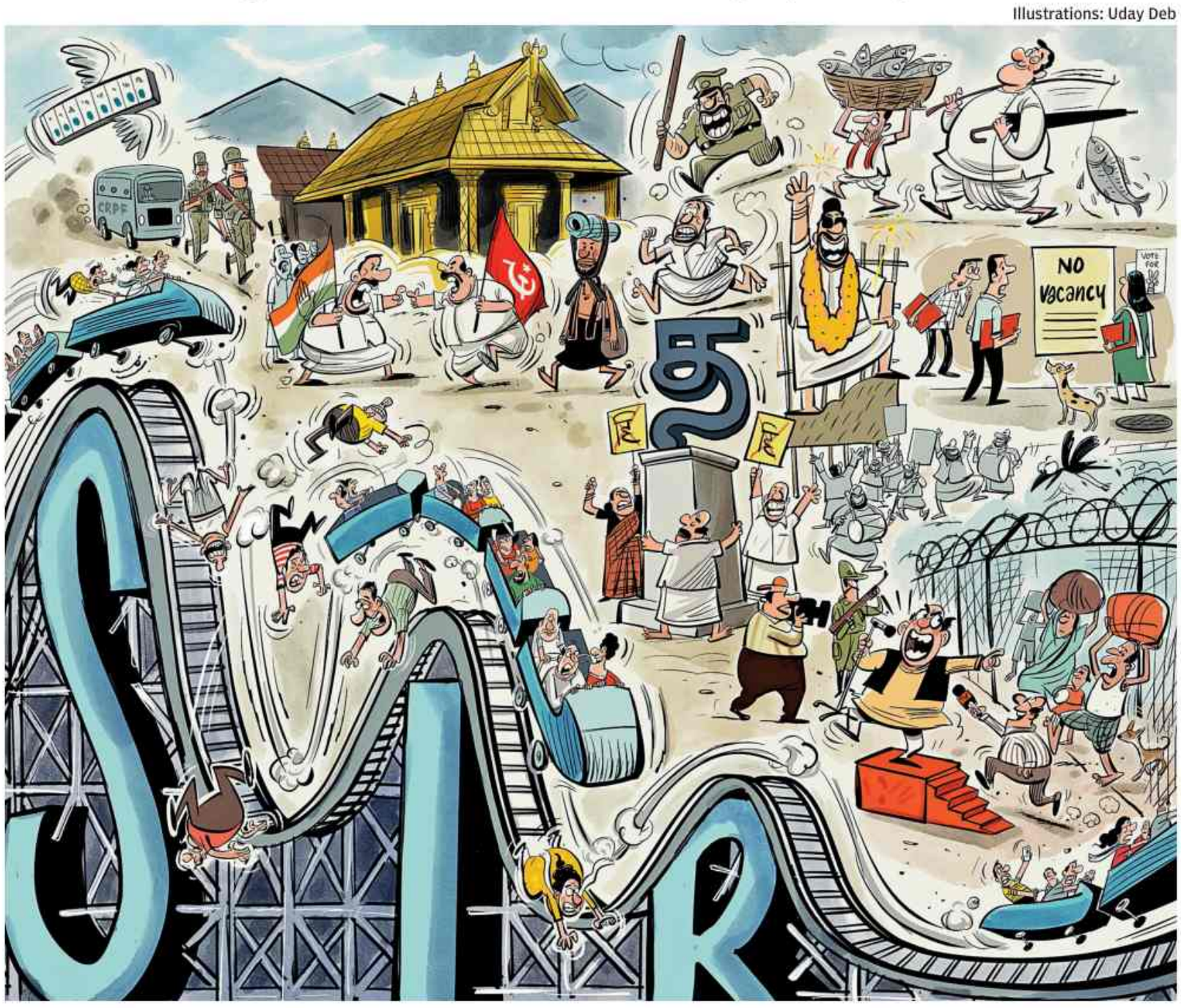

Four States, Four Stories: BJP's Surge And Struggles
BJP'S VOTE SHARE (%) ASSEMBLY LOK SABHA
Note: Based on results and leads till 10pm
West Bengal | Recent Surge
BJP has contested all assembly polls since 1982, drawing a blank in its first seven attempts, winning 3 in 2016, and emerging as the main opposition in 2021, with 77 seats. Its LS vote share reached 40.6% in 2019
45.8 2026
39.1 2024 LS
Assam | Stronghold
A steady presence since 1991, and the largest since 2016
37.9 2024 LS
37.8 2026
29.8 1999 LS
33.2 2021
1.1 1985
Kerala | Slow Gains
Vote share in assembly hovered below 6% since 1987, rising to double digits after 2016. First assembly seat came in 2016, and first LS seat in 2024
16.8 2024 LS
10.4 2004 LS
11.4 2026
2.8 1982
11.3 2021
Tamil Nadu | Limited Footprint
Vote share has stayed below 3% in most assembly polls, barring 2001 (over 3% and 4 seats). In the last LS election, it reached 11.4%, its highest ever in the state
11.4 2024 LS
7.1 1999 LS
0.1 1980
3.0 2026

Beyond Headlines, Behind Numbers

Few state polls have been as dramatic as this round. TOI explains the verdicts through 10 decisive factors, from freebies becoming entitlements to women's safety, and from Hindu vote to Gen Z angst

Illustrations: Uday Deb



1 RETURN OF ANTI-INCUMBENCY

For a while, anti-incumbency seemed like a fading ghost. Repeated successes of several incumbents, most notably Narendra Modi, had cast doubt on the old belief that time in power naturally breeds defeat. This set of verdicts, however, serves as a reminder: anti-incumbency lies dormant, unless neutralised by effective governance and sharp political instinct.

Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, and Pinarayi Vijayan, each formidable in their own right, operating different theatres, were undone by the weight of accumulated public discontent, headlined by voter disenchantment around corruption and crime.

Mamata was voted to office in 2011 by a public tired of 34 years of Left rule. She was seen as an agent of change. But her own regime got entangled in the vocabulary of decay: "tolabazi," "syndicate," and the pervasive "cut money" culture. Governance, in many pockets, appeared outsourced to local strongmen.

Stalin's tenure struggled under the shadow of rising crime, particularly against women and SCs. Corruption, though not unique to his administration, became increasingly visible, amplified by the arrest of senior ministers, and damning judicial observations against figures like Senthil Balaji. This was exploited by Vijay.

As for Pinarayi, allegations of corruption, including the controversy surrounding the Sabarimala temple gold theft, eroded trust. Compounding this was a strategic misstep: putting Pinarayi above the party. That ensured CPM personalised both power and blame. So, why did Himanta buck the trend? His win lies in delivery, tangible development, welfare outreach, and sharp political rhetoric. Performance, coupled with narrative control, acted as his shield, while delimitation was a factor as well.

2 ARC OF HINDU CONSOLIDATION

BJP victories in Bengal and Assam demonstrate the steady consolidation of Hindu votes, despite substantial Muslim presence in both states.

Bengal showcases a cultural pivot. Invocations of Ram may have outgrown earlier association with Hindi heartland. Mamata's confrontational stance in 2021 transformed 'Jai Sri Ram' into a slogan against 'appeasement'.

Her governance choices fed this perception. Restrictions that appeared stringent, when contrasted with her outreach toward Muslims, became talking points. Violence in Murshidabad, Malda, and Sandeshkhali were amplified as evidence of selective governance, whether fairly or not, and folded into a broader narrative of imbalance.

Mamata attempted course correction. Stipends for Hindu priests, mirroring earlier support extended to imams, and state backing for Durga Pujas,were introduced. But they came too late.

External developments sharpened the narrative. Reports of attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh lent urgency to BJP's messaging on infiltration, framing the issue in terms of 'demographic anxiety'.

In Assam, similar themes have long been part of politics. BJP refined and expanded AGP's anti-infiltration rhetoric.

Crucially, ripple effects of Hindu consolidation extend beyond these two states. In Kerala, CPM's stance during the Sabarimala controversy, particularly its alignment with activists pushing for women's entry, triggered a backlash among sections of Hindu voters. Even a subsequent recalibration failed to fully reverse the political cost, with BJP getting a non-trivial vote share, despite a broader pro-UDF swing.

Tamil Nadu offers a different variation of the theme. DMK's attempts to mobilise sentiment through sharp anti-Sanatan rhetoric did not quite hold its coalition together.

Across these diverse terrains, the pattern is, of course, not identical, but the direction is clear. Identity, perception, and political signalling are converging in ways that are steadily reshaping electoral coalitions, with Hindu consolidation emerging as a quiet but potent force.

3 THE MUSLIM FACTOR AND A NARROWING POLITICAL SPACE

In recent years, Muslim electoral arithmetic failed to halt BJP's advance, whether in UP, Assam, or Bihar. Bengal was expected to offer a different script. It didn't.

In Assam and Bihar, BJP's success has often been powered by its critique of 'appeasement'. The resultant counter-consolidation has altered the operating space for 'secular parties'. They now find that outreach to Muslim grievances risks alienating Hindu voters, while restraint invites disillusionment among minorities.

Mamata's positioning illustrates this dilemma. She was widely perceived to have leaned toward Muslim constituencies, a strategy that, over time, seemed to narrow her appeal among sections of Hindus. Such a balancing act was more manageable before Hindutva emerged as a dominant political force. In Assam, for instance, it successfully carried both Hindu and Muslim voters for Congress. Assam offers a different picture now. Congress is largely confined to Muslim-dominated pockets in the state.

Kerala reflects a different, but related dynamic. CPM found itself at a disadvantage in the contest for Muslim votes, as Congress-led UDF benefited from its alliance with the IUML. Left attempted to counter this by issuing warnings over IUML's growing influence within UDF, but it stopped short of a full-scale confrontation, given by its own political calculus.

Identity consolidation on one side has triggered strategic recalibration on the other, often leaving minority politics fragmented. And BJP has shown a consistent ability to step into these gaps.

4 MODI'S ENDURING MAGNETISM

If there were doubts about Modi's political appeal after BJP's underwhelming performance in 2024, these results have laid them to rest. That phase now appears less like a turning point, and more like an aberration. In Bengal, he emerged as a decisive force, helping BJP offset structural disadvantages: the absence of a local leader to rival Mamata's stature, and an organisational network far less entrenched than Trinamool's muscular machinery. Where the party lacked a road forward, his presence acted as a bridge.

His persona continues to be carefully curated: incorruptible, pro-poor, nationalist, tireless, and projecting authority. In politically difficult, even hostile terrain, that image does more than attract attention; it converts sentiment into votes. Modi softens the ground, and Amit Shah steps in to cultivate and harvest.

Assam offers a telling vignette. In Dibrugarh, among tea garden workers, in what was once considered a dependable Congress bastion, Modi's outreach carried a distinct resonance. State promises were not presented as routine governance, but wrapped in the persuasive stamp of "Modi ki guarantee." The result was emphatic: BJP swept all six seats in the region.

Modi's appeal remains a force multiplier, capable of redrawing political maps where BJP might otherwise struggle to find its footing.

5 SIR & THE ELECTORAL CHESSBOARD

EC's SIR of voter rolls emerged as a pivotal factor in Bengal, acknowledged by both BJP and Trinamool, though interpreted through entirely different lenses. TMC claimed the exercise was nothing short of a calculated purge, aimed at disenfranchising Mamata's core support base, particularly Muslim voters. It framed the revision as an institutional manoeuvre designed to tilt the electoral field. BJP, however, offered a starkly different narrative. It argued that the revision merely cleansed voter rolls, removing the "dead," the "doubly registered," and the "absent or shifted" categories it claims had long been exploited. According to this view, the pruning denied TMC an entrenched advantage, allegedly built through inflated voter lists, enabled by a pliant state machinery.

BJP also argued that a significant portion of the nearly 27 lakh voters, who were flagged for "logical discrepancies", fell into this grey zone, individuals whose eligibility was suspect, and whose inclusion, it claimed, had historically served to swell vote banks of both TMC and, earlier, Left. It also accused Mamata of attempting to blur distinctions between legitimate exclusions and questionable entries, turning the issue into a broader political narrative of Bengal versus Centre.

Where the truth ultimately lies will likely be settled only through appellate scrutiny of contested exclusions. For now, one conclusion stands out: TMC was unable to effectively weaponise the issue against BJP. Whether this was because its narrative failed to resonate with ground realities is, as of now, an open question.

Equally significant were EC's measures to ensure freer voting conditions. By reducing fear and coercion, these steps may have not only diluted TMC's claims, but also emboldened many voters who desired change. They had, possibly, previously hesitated to express their choice at the ballot box.

6 DOUBLE ENGINE PROMISE

Dismissed by critics as little more than a political jumla, BJP's 'double engine' model has quietly gathered believers, even in states governed by its opponents. The idea is simple but potent: alignment with a 'friendly' Centre does not just unlock central schemes, especially big-ticket infrastructure, it also signals stability and policy coherence to private investors.

Paradoxically, some non-BJP govts have strengthened this narrative through resistance. By opting out of schemes like Ayushman Bharat, or by sidestepping conditional frameworks tied to subsidized housing, rural roads, and employment guarantees, they seek to avoid ceding political credit to a Centre-branded welfare architecture. The schemes, after all, carry the unmistakable imprint of 'Modi'. But this strategy carries a quiet risk. Governance gaps do not exist in isolation; they invite comparison. Voters look to other states, weighing what is delivered against what is withheld.

Bengal offers a telling contrast. Its long arc of de-industrialisation appears sharper when set against Assam's recent investment surge, crowned by high-profile projects like the Tata semiconductor plant. Similarly, its infrastructure story struggles to match the visible gains made by Bihar in recent years. The 'double engine' pitch, then, draws strength not just from promise, but from contrast. Some facts are buttressed by perception.

7 MIGRATION AND THE POLITICS OF LOSS

Migration emerged as a powerful undercurrent in these elections, less a statistic and more a shared pain. Voters in Bengal spoke with unusual candour about the irony that shadows the state: once a magnet for industry and opportunity, it now exports its people, often as low-wage labour, not just to traditionally developed regions, but also to states that have surged ahead on the back of investor-friendly policies.

This shift is more than economic, it is deeply personal. It lives in quiet households, where ageing parents navigate daily life alone, their children scattered across distant cities in search of work. Each departure is a small fracture, repeated thousands of times over, until it becomes a defining social reality.

Politically, migration has come to symbolise something larger, the long arc of de-industrialisation, economic drift, and the perceived limits of Mamata's 'Maa, Maati, Manush' model. What was once framed as a grassroots, people-first approach, now faces a harder question: can it generate enough opportunity to keep its own people rooted?

In that sense, migration is no longer just movement. It has become a verdict, quietly delivered, on the state's economic direction.

8 WOMEN'S SECURITY & THE SHIFTING GROUND

Women had long been Mamata's most dependable constituency. Their support was instrumental in helping her withstand BJP's aggressive push in both 2021 assembly elections and 2024 Lok Sabha polls. But this time, that pillar showed visible cracks.

A series of disturbing crimes against women altered the political mood. The rape of a junior doctor at R G Kar Hospital, the incident at Durgapur Medical College, and allegations of systematic harassment in Sandeshkhali, collectively eroded the trust that 'Didi' had carefully built among women voters. Welfare schemes like Lakshmi Bhandar and Kanyashree had created a reservoir of goodwill, but that emotional bank began to run dry, in the face of fear and anger.

The brutality of these incidents was, in itself, deeply unsettling. But what amplified their impact was the perception of govt's response. In the R G Kar case, questions lingered over whether the administration acted decisively enough, or whether it allowed doubts to grow about accountability, and the handling of evidence. After the Durgapur tragedy, Mamata's remark that "girls should not stay out after 8pm" struck many as horribly misplaced, shifting the burden of safety onto victims, rather than to the system meant to protect them.

Her outright rejection of allegations in Sandeshkhali, which included claims of targeted harassment of Hindu women, further complicated matters. By dismissing these charges, and appearing to defend those accused, she made many women think her response lacked empathy and urgency.

In politics, perception often travels faster than policy. For a leader whose connection with women voters had been both emotional and political, these moments added up to a critical rupture, where assurance gave way to anxiety, and loyalty began to waver.

9 CASH TRANSFER MINUS UPPER LIMIT

Every party now competes in offering more cash to voters, turning what was once an electoral innovation into a baseline expectation. Early movers have lost their edge. Gratitude has matured into entitlement, and entitlement, once awakened, is politically restless.

Beneficiaries have become discerning consumers in a crowded marketplace of promises, free to shift allegiance to whoever offers more. Mamata felt the force of this shift when women voters, once her most steadfast supporters, drifted toward a rival offering Rs 3,000 a month, double the benefit under Lakshmi Bhandar.

The upper limit escalation is striking. In Assam, BJP promises include phased increases under the Orunodoi scheme, lump-sum payouts of Rs 25,000 for existing beneficiaries, and expanded coverage. Tamil Nadu, long the laboratory of welfare politics, has pushed the envelope further. Vijay's pitch blends cash transfers with symbolic and material gestures, Rs 2,500 monthly for women heads of households, gold at marriage, gifts for newborn girls, and annual support for mothers with school-going daughters. It is welfare as spectacle.

Per PRS, by 2025-26, at least 12 states will be running unconditional cash transfer schemes for women, with a combined outlay nearing Rs 1.7 lakh crore.

But who pays for it all? Bengal, already grappling with strained finances and a projected fiscal deficit of 4.3%, faces mounting pressure to balance welfare commitments with capex. Tamil Nadu and Kerala, though better placed, are facing similar constraints.

Economic Survey sounded a quiet alarm: while such transfers provide immediate relief, they carry long-term risks for fiscal stability and economic growth. Welfare wins elections, but it can also weigh down the very systems that sustain it. Politics races ahead, cheque in hand, while economics lingers behind, asking how long the engine can keep running.

10 THE GEN Z SURGE

Dhaka to Sofia, Kathmandu to Nairobi, Gen Z has already shown its capacity to unsettle entrenched power. Now, that restless tide has touched Indian shores. In Tamil Nadu, it washed up with force, breaking against the familiar coastlines of Marina and Mahabalipuram, and in the process, shaking a Dravidian order that had stood firm for over five decades.

This is a generation impatient with inertia, uneasy with the quiet acceptance of "chalta hai," and eager to step out from the long shadow of inherited political scripts. Armed with the amplifying power of social media, and often moving in tandem with women voters, it helped propel Vijay from cultural icon to political contender with striking speed.

To be sure, the ground was already shifting. Towering legacies of Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa left behind shoes their successors have struggled to fill. But there was also a mismatch between aspirations of a younger electorate and the vocabulary of established politics. Where the old guard spoke in familiar cadences, Gen Z tuned into a different frequency. Yet, the scale of Vijay's rise, while impressive, resists easy replication. India is not a single stage but a mosaic of political theatres, each with its own script. The Gen Z impulse can be absorbed, redirected, or even co-opted by established players. A seasoned challenger, even one shaped by older traditions, can still harness that energy.

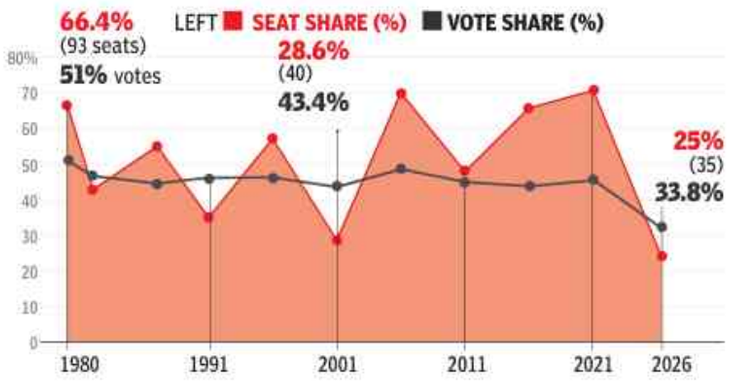
Enduring social structures like caste can act as breakwaters, slowing or reshaping the surge. Meanwhile, the adaptive nature of Hindutva has shown a remarkable ability to absorb the desire for change and redirect it against what is framed as a 'decadent secular' order.

The Gen Z effect, then, is not a uniform wave. It is a shifting current, powerful but uneven, capable of redrawing coastlines in some places, while merely rippling the surface in others.

Left's Rise, And Fall Of Its Last Fortress

Kerala | Final Frontier

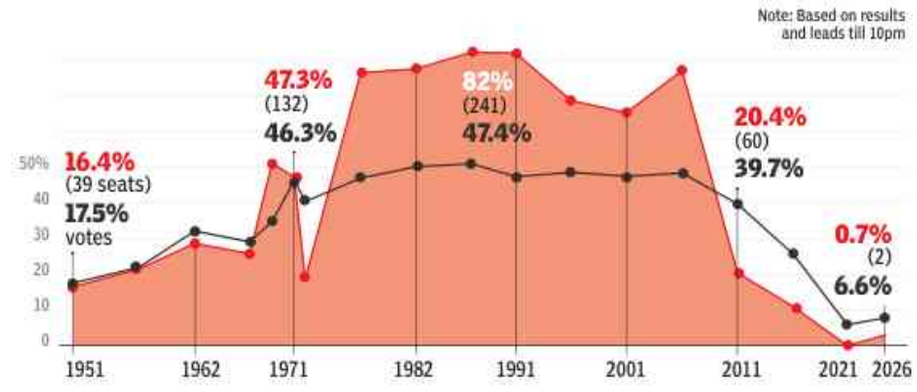
The Left first formed a govt in the state in 1957, weathering dismissal, splits, and decades of political churn. The present LDF and UDF alliances, which are largely intact, were formed before the 1980 election. Since then, keys to CM's office have alternated between the two (except in 2021). Now, with its loss in Kerala, the Left's final bastion has fallen



Note: Left in West Bengal includes CPI, CPM, AIFB and RSP. Left in Kerala includes constituents and the Independents supported by the alliance

West Bengal
Down & Out

A dominant force from the very first elections In West Bengal, it peaked in 1987 with an over 51% vote share and more than 80% of seats. But, after 2006, that dominance began to steadily erode, ending in a complete wipeout by 2021



Too Maach! BJP Angles For More Gains In 2027

Party Looks To Stay On The Up In UP, Get Upper Hand In Punjab

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Even before the last votes were cast in this round of assembly polls, PM Narendra Modi and BJP president Nitin Nabin were in Uttar Pradesh on April 28. They were mobilising popular support and attacking the opposition for defeating the Centre's move to amend women's reservation bill in Parliament. Four days before it, some key party functionaries left West Bengal for Delhi to facilitate the entry of seven AAP MPs, all but one from Punjab, into the BJP.

BJP brass is grudgingly recognised by even rivals for never taking its eyes off the ball. While the maiden win in West Bengal shines brighter than other state victories BJP has notched up since 2014 and the Assam hat-trick will add to the sense of triumph, its leadership is already preparing for future political battles.

The Bengal win has reinvigorated BJP's ideological plank, now strengthened by its campaign against infiltrators, and brought into sharp relief the wide traction it enjoys when mixed with welfare offerings and development promises, enhanced by the appeal of Modi.

EYE ON THE PRIZE: Even as SP focuses on Pichhda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak (PDA) , BJP is quietly rebuilding its base

What's more, BJP's eastward expansion provides the party an insurance against any unforeseen loss it may suffer in one of its strongholds during the next national elections, as it did in 2024 when its near sweep of Odisha for the first time pushed its tally to 240.

Since Bengal has 42 Lok Sabha seats, the party's eastern flank is as strong as its traditional fortresses in north and west, with south, barring Karnataka, remaining the only weak link.

BJP was quick to remind that women's security remains a key plank for the party. Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan said BJP stands as the "instrument" through which women find voice and pain finds justice, highlighting the win of its candidate Rekha Patra, mother of RG Kar Medical College rape-murder victim.

UP, due to its sheer size, remains crucial to its national ambitions. Home to 80 MPs, almost 15% of Lok Sabha seats, UP was instrumental in BJP's maiden majority in Parliament in 2014 as it delivered 71 seats in its overall tally of 282. And when SP-led alliance reduced its tally to 33 in 2024 from 62, BJP fell short of a majority and depended on allies to get a majority.

With Akhilesh Yadav pinning his hopes on further consolidating the social coalition of PDA (Pichhda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) after denting BJP in 2024, the governing party is expected to take up measures to rebuild its own support base as part of non-Yadav OBCs and non-Jatav SCs that had moved away from it in the Lok Sabha polls.

While CM Yogi Adityanath scores high on law and order, a sore spot for SP, and is seen as a robust Hindutva face, he has his own share of detractors even within the party, which is expected to take corrective measures to ensure a united face in the run up to next year's election.

The dominant view within BJP is that a regional party like SP is unlikely to be able to blunt its agenda. "The only harm we can suffer in UP is when it is self-inflicted," a party functionary said, expressing confidence that its national leadership will ensure a hat-trick next year.

Purely in terms of cold statistics, Punjab may not score high on the national index of electoral importance but the border state has been a priority for BJP under Modi, who has been assiduously wooing Sikhs, who are in a majority, and Dalits, who are spread among Sikhs and Hindus and have a distinct political identity, following its split with old ally Akali Dal.

BJP is pulling out all stops to dethrone AAP in Punjab. While AAP's six Rajya Sabha MPs from the state may not be political heavyweights, their loss does weaken Arvind Kejriwal's party.

Uttarakhand, where Congress has shown some energy of late, and Goa are two other states which will be part of the next poll cycle. The expected organisational overhaul after Nabin took over as chief in Dec last year is likely to bring several new faces to the fore as BJP seeks to balance experience with youth in its rank and file.

Kerala throws Cong a lifebuoy, but boat still in choppy waters

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New Delhi: In cricketing analogy, Congress got off the mark with Kerala. The party notched its first victory since winning Telangana in Dec 2023, and finally showed some resilience after its commendable show in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls was followed by a nosedive that saw it surrender solo winnable turfs and post poor tallies in alliances.

Kerala is a sigh of relief for Congress that appeared to have lost the skill of winning.

Haryana and Maharashtra were winnable, but it came up way short. In coalition states, Congress did poorly in the winning NC alliance of J&K, and in the losing alliance (MVA) of Maharashtra with its lowest ever tally in the massive state. Jharkhand, deftly managed by senior partner JMM, was the only redeeming feature. In this backdrop, Kerala's big win is special for Congress, especially as the Left stronghold was viewed to be a close contest.

But cancelling the Kerala effect was the decimation in Assam. A decade out of power in its one-time stronghold, the confident attempt at revival by appointing MP Gaurav Gogoi at the helm came a cropper. The party seems to have no answer to the religious polarisation set in motion by BJP.

NOT SHIPSHAPE: Poor campaign planning and failure to find an answer to BJP's identity politics have been a hindrance for Congress

Congress's continuing moribund state in West Bengal and the dismal show in Tamil Nadu as a junior ally to DMK shows it has not progressed much since the advent of Modi-led BJP decimated it nationally. The resilient show in 2024 polls in what was an extremely challenging election had raised hopes in the party about the future. But the elections that followed disappointed Congress cadres no end.

The 2026 results, despite the solitary win, betray a paralysing stagnation.

For Congress, the challenges remain as they were post-May 2014 — its decimation in the heartland and BJP's success in painting it with the 'Muslim brush'.

Moving forward, Congress has to find a way to confront BJP in bipolar states that span the north, besides Gujarat and Goa. The party showed spunk in Dec 2018 when it swept Chhattisgarh, MP and Rajasthan. But it lost them five years later.

A big handicap for Congress has been BJP's unbridled push for polarisation, which has delivered even in states like Chhattisgarh, MP, Gujarat, which have small Muslim populations.

Pushed to the brink, the party did think out-of-the-box in the interim. Bharat Jodo Yatra was a bold attempt to neutralise 'polarisation', as Rahul Gandhi walked the country's length and breadth to target BJP on communalism, marginalisation of underprivileged communities.

The yatra had a direct impact on the 2024 LS polls. Its accounts seized, its ranks dented by defections and the campaign dominated by Ayodhya and associated issues, Congress and INDIA bloc allies still managed to run BJP ragged. Congress managed to win a good chunk of seats in Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, and with allies in UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra. It did well on southern turfs of Karnataka and Telangana.

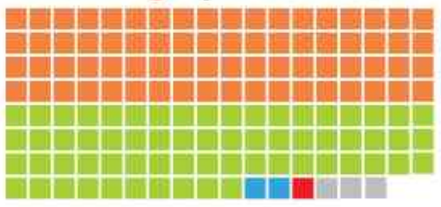
But just when Congress felt that religious mobilisation had run its course, it lost to poor management in Haryana and Maharashtra polls. And since then, it has been confronted by resurgent BJP push for polarisation, while EC-mandated SIR, poor campaign plan and lax allies have not helped the matters.

As BJP wins new territories to add to its rock solid northern and western states, Congress faces the imperative of winning on BJP's heartland hegemonies if it has to stand a chance in the 2029 LS polls.

HOW MUSLIM VOTERS FLIPPED

Often a decisive factor, where did the minority vote go this time in **seats where the proportion of Muslims is higher than their overall share in a state's population**? Here's a **TOI** analysis

West Bengal | 142 seats (out of 293)



Minority voting in Muslim-dominated districts shifted from the pattern of near-total consolidation behind Trinamool, thus reshaping calculations in 142 of 294 seats where the community holds influence. In Murshidabad, Malda and parts of South 24 Parganas, votes of the minority community — which makes up 27% of Bengal's population — were split among Congress, CPM, ISF, AJUP and, even BJP in some pockets. Instead of backing TMC as the strongest statewide challenger to BJP, sections of Muslim voters chose local alternatives.

Kerala | 44 seats (out of 140)

A sweeping consolidation of Muslim votes, combined with anti-incumbency, powered UDF's surge. UDF's won 38 of 44 seats where Muslim population is over 30%. Also, it won nine of another 11 seats in central and southern districts where Muslims have significant electoral strength. This marks a complete return of Muslim voters — long seen to be the core social axis of UDF, along with the Christian voters — into the Congress-led fold, reversing inroads made by LDF in 2021. Muslims make up 27% of Kerala's population per 2011 Census, but their share is said to have gone up to 30%.

Assam | 22 seats (out of 126)

Their influence now limited to 22 seats following delimitation, Muslim voters this time switched their allegiance to Congress — likely on the assumption of the party being the most credible alternative to BJP — dumping the long-trusted AIUDF of Badruddin Ajmal.

Congress won 18 of these seats with one each going to Raijor Dal and Trinamool Congress, while AIUDF bagged just two. AIUDF said that Muslims abandoned the party as they were convinced by the Congress narrative that it will form the next govt and Gaurav Gogoi would become CM.

Inputs: Dipawali Mitra, Rajeev KR, Prabin Kalita

Assam & Bengal verdicts shift the minority needle

Times News Network

New Delhi: Bengal and Assam poll results have thrown up a challenge for the Muslim community, which has been pushed into a political whirlpool post-2014 by BJP's 'communal card' to polarise the majority community, coupled with controversial measures like delimitation and SIR.

BJP's success in damping the largest minority community in Assam has followed the 2023 state-specific delimitation. By one estimate, the seats where Muslims held sway fell from 35/126 seats to 20. A similar measure in Jammu & Kashmir created seven new seats, which, according to the opposition, were 'tailored' to help BJP. While the opposition has dubbed it "legalised rigging", chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has openly asserted that he has done the delimitation to marginalise influence of the anti-BJP religious group. Assam and J&K delimitations were flagged by every opposition MP during the recent debate in Parliament.

In the storm kicked up by Election Commission's SIR exercise, the big charge has revolved around 'disenfranchisement' of Muslims. The edge of the twin measures — SIR and delimitation — has been compounded by BJP's belligerent campaign focussed on polarising Hindus.

With sweeping verdicts in favour of BJP in Bengal and Assam where the minority population is above the national average and where communal outreach became the mobilisational theme, the governing party would be encouraged to step up on its winning formula.

This could further test the community at the receiving end of BJP, as it will agitate secular parties who cater to voters across the religious divide. Often, such situations can lead to secular parties being outflanked from the right, throwing up outfits exclusively representing minorities, illustrated by AIMIM's growth in Bihar's 'Seemanchal' region. AIMIM has sought to play this card in many states, and it remains to be seen what the Hyderabad party does in UP in 2027.

At the same time, the tricky situation can nudge BJP rivals to move towards diluting their overt secular positioning. A case in point is Assam, where 18 of 19 Congress winners may be Muslims. Such outcomes can rattle the best.

Besides delimitation and SIR, the political chatter has been agog with what some may call a "conspiracy theory" — BJP's attempts to strengthen its hand by dividing Muslim votes, like Humayun Kabir launching a new party with an emotive religious card.

Such conundrum, and surprises, would solely be for the minorities and political rivals to grapple with, while BJP steps on the gas to consolidate the majority bloc.

INDIA footprint fades on Bharat map as allies stumble in WB, TN

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New Delhi: As BJP appeared to get a lock on a state that sends 42 MPs to Lok Sabha, Mandate 2026 confronted INDIA bloc with a question about how to take on a rival with an ever-expanding footprint in the next LS elections.

The results in Tamil Nadu, Bengal, Assam and Puducherry have virtually seen the decimation of the opposition alliance, with two of its stalwarts — DMK and TMC — who have blocked BJP on key turfs biting the dust.

With the arithmetic of 18th Lok Sabha set to remain the same, DMK and TMC may be nudged to tighten their clinch with the bloc, if only to be seen as unequivocal in their political line with an eye on future revival. This despite Congress drifting towards DMK's nemesis TVK in Chennai. Even TMC, which has often been a spoiler for unity, may be nudged to close ranks with INDIA.

The tricky dance was evident when Rahul Gandhi posted on X that he had spoken to Mamata Banerjee and M K Stalin about their defeats, and congratulated Vijay on his victory. Rahul also lauded the TN mandate, calling it reflective of "the rising voice of youth".

TITANS TUMBLE: The defeats may bring the allies closer

A schism had opened up between Congress and other regional parties — JMM, RJD, SP, AAP which lined up behind Mamata and Stalin, while Rahul and Congress played truant. With DMK and TMC forecast to win their states, Congress was likely to face the blowback and even some ganging up within the grouping. But, as its spokespersons asserted through Monday, Congress was prescient in its demand that TMC and DMK accommodate the party to take on rivals. The pet barbs of TMC that Congress failed to stop BJP in the heartland is set to be a thing of the past. And a weakened INDIA bloc may have to confront the indispensability of Congress leadership.

The immediate future will be about ensuring coherence in the UP alliance where SP is senior partner to Congress. They have to hammer out better understanding than seen in Tamil Nadu. Even in Bengal, early overtures by Congress and some opposition managers for a tie-up to consolidate popular support were rebuffed by Mamata.

But the big one — 2029 parliamentary polls — looms as the grand challenge With BJP having expanded its footprint beyond its strongholds, opposition faces an uphill task to make up for the big shortfall that would emerge in Bengal. Another challenge is Maharashtra where BJP returned to office by routing Shiv Sena (UBT)-NCP(SP)-Congress.

For the anti-BJP coalition, the new imperative would be to hammer out joint strategies instead of the prevalent mode of each player deciding its own plan on their turf. The trigger is the growing uniformity of the BJP blueprint to target opposition players, the prime being painting them as "anti-Hindu" — as shown by the arc of BJP's eastern aggression from Bihar to Assam to Bengal. SP-Congress would have to contend with such a possibility in the UP campaign.

Ultimately, if Congress has to be the leader of the opposition, it will have to supplement the partners' effort by being a viable party in states where it is the sole opposition to BJP — the Hindi heartland.

While there is no love lost between TMC and Congress, the latter would feel the heat of the former's defeat.

An alliance is an alliance, even if an uneasy one.

Sickle gets hammered, Left homeless

Times News Network

New Delhi: The ouster of the two-term CPM-led Left Democratic Front govt in Kerala by the Congress-led UDF marks the first time since 1977 that no state in India will have a Communist govt. The Left is now faced with the challenge of continuing to be relevant at the national level in the face of declining influence in election after election.

Though the Left's liberal-progressive narrative continues to appeal within a rights-based framework and it is still seen as spearheading the agenda on issues ranging from environment, gender and labour issues, it seems to be finding it tough to translate that core base into votes. In fact, the writing has been on the wall for some time. For instance, the severe setback for CPI(ML) in Bihar assembly polls last year, when its tally plummeted from 12 seats to a mere two, brought into focus its increasing inability to retain its strongholds. The defeat in Kerala also raises the possibility of the Left losing some influence within the opposition's INDIA bloc.

ROCK BOTTOM: CPM-led LDF's ouster from Kerala marks the first time since 1977 that no state in India will have a Communist govt

In Kerala, the stakes were high for the LDF right from the outset due to anti-incumbency and the perception that the vote was a referendum on Pinarayi Vijayan. Vijayan created history in 2021 as the first CM in the state to be re-elected after a full five-year term. Earlier to that, the state has had a four-decade-old tradition of alternating govts.

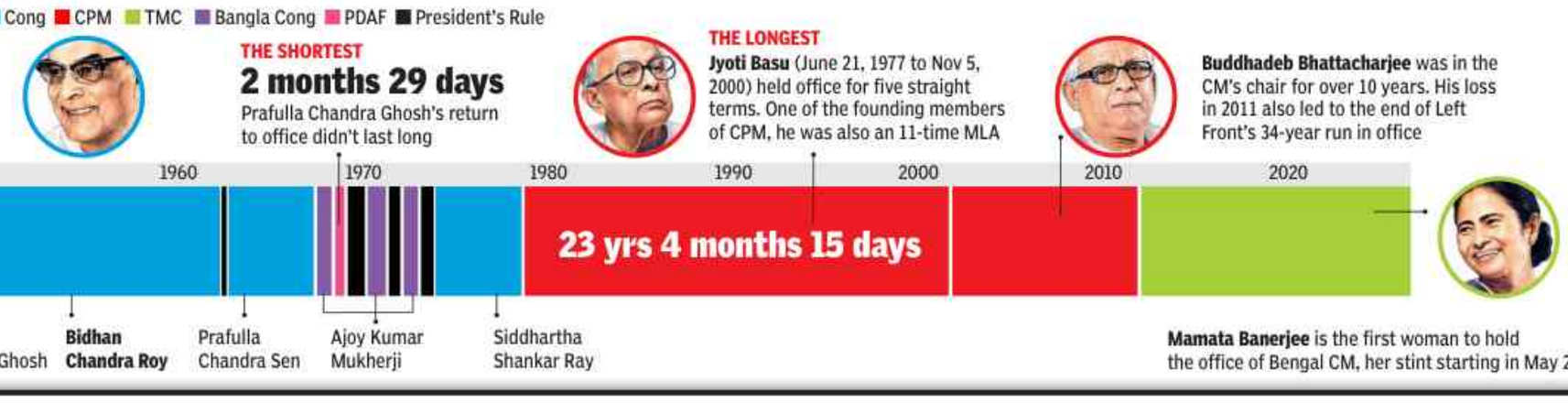
In a high-pitched battle with a resurgent Congress-led UDF, both sides engaged in scathing attacks. BJP-led NDA's attempts to expand its footprint beyond traditional pockets also played a role in pushing the LDF to the ropes.

In West Bengal, the CPM, which led the state govt for 34 years from 1977 to 2011, won just one seat. Last time, they had none. In Assam, where the Left parties — CPM, CPI and CPI(ML) fought as part of the Congress-led alliance, failed to open their account. In Tamil Nadu, where the Left parties fought as part of the DMK-led alliance, they won four seats.

Refusing to see the poll outcome as a reflection on the growing irrelevance of the Left, CPM general secretary M A Baby conceded that despite having an organisational presence, impact was not getting converted to support in the electoral arena. "In the upcoming Polit Bureau and Central Committee meetings, there will be introspection on the reasons that led to the defeat of the LDF in Kerala and take corrective measures".

In Last 5 Decades, Bengal Has Had Just 3 CMs

Bidhan Chandra Roy led the state from 1948 to 1962. The 1967-72 period saw unstable coalition govts, after which Siddhartha Shankar Ray marked Congress's final phase in govt. From 1977 to 2011, the Left Front held sway with Jyoti Basu and Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee at the helm, before Mamata Banerjee of Trinamool Congress assumed office in the state


Cong CPM TMC Bangla Cong PDAF President's Rule
THE SHORTEST
2 months 29 days
Prafulla Chandra Ghosh's return to office didn't last long
THE LONGEST
Jyoti Basu (June 21, 1977 to Nov 5, 2000) held office for five straight terms. One of the founding members of CPM, he was also an 11-time MLA
Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee was in the CM's chair for over 10 years. His loss in 2011 also led to the end of Left Front's 34-year run in office
1947
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
23 yrs 4 months 15 days
Prafulla Chandra Ghosh
Bidhan Chandra Roy
Prafulla Chandra Sen
Ajoy Kumar Mukherji
Siddhartha Shankar Ray
Mamata Banerjee is the first woman to hold the office of Bengal CM, her stint starting in May 2011

NaMoshkar: Bengal Debut For BJP Sarkar

Anti-incumbency stings Trinamool as state looks for right alternative

Krishnendu Banerjee & Dipawali Mitra | TNN

Basabdatta Sarkar

FLYING HIGH: BJP workers celebrate in Kalighat

Throughout the campaign, Mamata Banerjee leaned on her 2021 playbook, asserting that she was the 'sole candidate' across all 294 seats. This time, however, the strategy that had fended off anti-incumbency backfired. Voters were not going to make the same mistake again.

In a political earthquake that ended 15 years of Trinamool Congress dominance in Bengal, a powerful anti-incumbency wave swept BJP to a historic debut in the state. As counting for the assembly election drew to a close on Monday, the saffron surge dismantled Trinamool's rural and urban strongholds alike – from border districts to the CM's home turf of Bhabanipur in south Kolkata – signalling a deep-seated public exhaustion with what many voters described as "systemic misrule".

"Didi said she was the candidate everywhere, but when we looked at our broken roads and closed-down schools and the local netas demanding 'cut-money' for every house repair, we didn't see her face. We saw the faces of local bullies," said Animesh Mondal, a schoolteacher in North 24 Parganas, the suburban district adjoining Kolkata.

"Trinamool simply could not consolidate its vote share," said Zaad Mahmood, associate professor of political science at Presidency University. "BJP's vote share increased significantly, but more importantly, TMC's share dropped. We saw a crucial shift where the Muslim vote split, while a large portion of the majority Hindu vote consolidated in favour of BJP. It is, fundamentally, Trinamool's own failure to hold its ground," said Mahmood.

Driving the anti-incumbency sentiment was a stagnant industrial landscape. Despite years of promises, the lack of private-sector investment has forced a generation of Bengali youth to seek work in states like Karnataka, Maharashtra, Delhi and Gujarat.

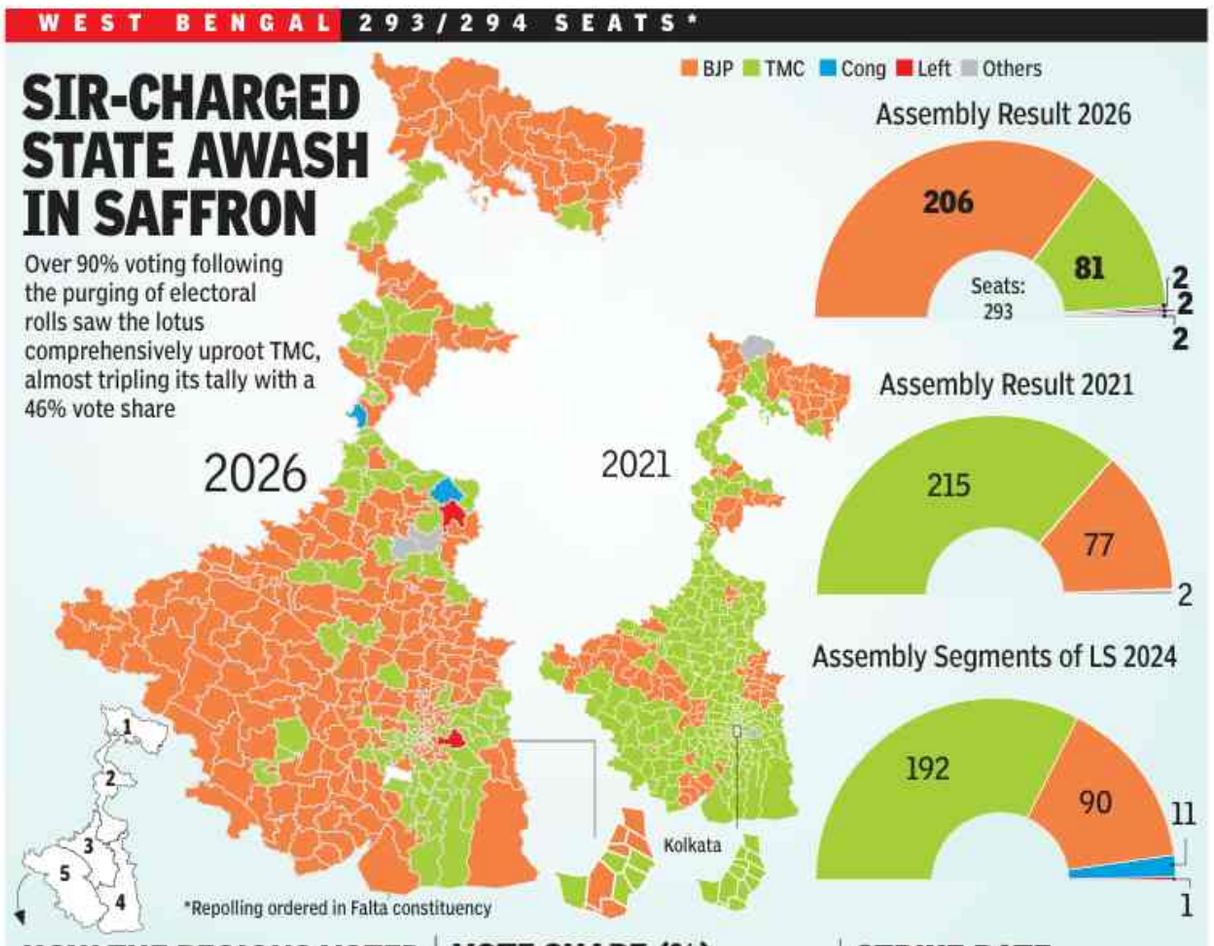
Trinamool tried to mitigate this through a youth dole. Though there were lakhs of takers for the monthly stipend, the deeper resentment of not finding jobs in the state remained. "I don't want Rs 1,500 to sit idle; I want a job that respects my degree," said Subhamoy Das, 24, an engineering graduate from Hooghly who now works as a data-entry operator at Sealdah. "The dole was a reminder that the govt had no real plan for our future. They wanted to buy our silence, not build our careers."

Rampant corruption across party ranks also fuelled anger. From the school recruitment scam that saw thousands of eligible candidates protesting on the streets to the local-level "tolabazi" (extortion), the perception of a 'mafia raj' permeated the electorate. "A number of schools in my locality run without proper teachers. I am forced to enrol my child in a private school, despite meagre earnings. Who do you expect me to vote for?" asked Sunil Bhakat, a resident of rural Howrah.

"We have struggled to survive, but local netas never shy away from flaunting their ill-gotten fortune," said Anup Ghosh, a pharmacist from Serampore, Hooghly. "The development works never reached the last mile because the party cadre acted as a filter," noted Sheikh Rahamatullah, a labour contractor from Murshidabad. "Even the middle class and upper middle class Muslim families are fed up. For years, we were treated as a loyal 'vote bank' to be secured with doles. We want quality education and infrastructure, not just an identity-based rhetoric that keeps us trapped in poverty," he added.

Political analysts observed that Mamata's failure to address internal party rot proved fatal. Her insistence on overseeing every seat blinded her to the disconnect between her administration and the common citizen.

"She overlooked the corruption in her own backyard for too long," said Sunita Banerjee, a homemaker in south Kolkata. "While she was busy with national ambitions, the roads turned to craters and the transport system collapsed. Trinamool's harping on 'Bengal Asmita' (Bengal's self-respect) remained meaningless rhetoric without the job opportunities we were promised," Milind Goswami, a tutor, said.



HOW THE REGIONS VOTED

1 North Bengal (27 seats)

	TMC	BJP	Cong	Left	Others
2026	1 ▼	26 ▲	0	0	0 ▼
2021	5	21	0	0	1

2 Chicken's Neck (49 seats)

2026	22 ▼	22 ▲	2 ▲	1 ▲	2 ▲
2021	38	11	0	0	0

3 Bardhaman (54 seats)

2026	9 ▼	45 ▲	0	0	0
2021	46	8	0	0	0

4 Greater Kolkata (108 seats)

2026	46 ▼	60 ▲	0	1 ▲	0 ▼
2021	93	14	0	0	1

5 Jangal Mahal-Medinipur (56 seats)

2026	2 ▼	54 ▲	0	0	0
2021	33	23	0	0	0

VOTE SHARE (%)

(Parties' vote shares have been rounded off)

VOTE'S WORTH (IN LAKH)

How many votes it took to win one seat

STRIKE RATE

Seats won as % of seats contested

70.4% BJP fought 293 seats. In 2021, it contested 293 seats and had a strike rate of 26%

27.5% TMC fought 291 seats. In 2021, it had a 74% strike rate out of 290 seats contested

0.7% Cong fought 293 seats. In 2021, it drew a blank

Highest Margin 1,04,265 — **Anandamay Barman** of BJP, in Matigara-Naxalbari

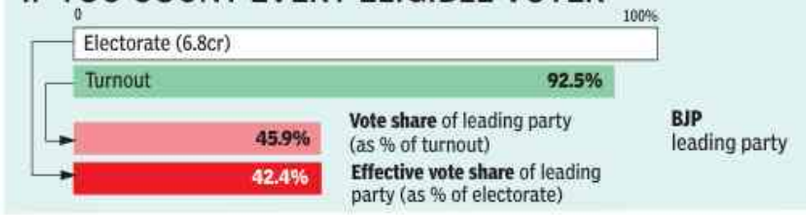
Lowest Margin 323 — **Tapash Chatterjee** of TMC in Rajarhat-New Town

Youngest MLA 27 Yrs — **Mayna Murmu** of BJP, the new MLA of Manbazar

Oldest MLA 84 Yrs — **Samar Mukherjee** of TMC. He won in Ratua constituency

Richest MLA ₹430Cr — **Dilip Saha,** who won Nabagram on a BJP ticket

ACTUAL VOTE SHARE OF WINNING PARTY IF YOU COUNT EVERY ELIGIBLE VOTER



Source: ECI, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) | MyNeta.info

Why Mamata tasted defeat when she put fish on plate

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JHALMURI THE FLAVOUR

Kolkata: Trinamool stoked the fear of Bengal's identity facing a threat from BJP but found its own identity getting erased. When Mamata Banerjee made much of 'maachh', BJP threw both 'maachh' and 'muri' into the mix. The fear mongering failed miserably for the ruling party.

What mattered was the near-empty plate, and not the palate. Unemployment, lack of industries and rampant corruption could no longer be swept under the carpet. Fifteen years of inertia that had put Bengal in a state of coma finally proved to be Didi's undoing.

Mamata had quite shrewdly framed the contest as a battle for Bengali identity against a hostile central govt. She drew attention to Bengali migrant workers being targeted in other states, BJP's alleged dictates on non-veg food and the Centre's apathy in releasing funds. Trinamool's slogan — 'Jato karo hamla, ebar jitbe Bangla' (however much you attack, this time Bangla will win) — was meant to be a war cry of Bengali resistance. A state trying to repel an assault on its identity.

BJP lost no time in joining the battle. When PM Narendra Modi chose to have 'jhalmuri' at Jhargram, it was not mere optics. When he raised the fish debate, the BJP think tank knew exactly what it wanted to achieve. When Bidhannagar BJP candidate Sharadwat Mukhopadhyay walked around with a fish, the party was aiming for a far bigger catch. And that's what it finally netted on Monday.

To BJP's shrill 'ghuspaithiya' (infiltrators) pitch was added the message that the allegation of Bengal's cultural and culinary identity being under threat was just a ruse, a red herring to divert attention from the state govt's failures. Union home minister Amit Shah fortified that assurance by declaring that a son of soil would be the next BJP CM.

During the last Lok Sabha polls, Trinamool had already conceded leads in over 60% of the wards across 125 municipal bodies, including its most prestigious bastions in south Kolkata. BJP saw its chance and went for the kill.

The RG Kar tragedy, which swiftly evolved from a law-and-order failure into a broad indictment of what critics described as a culture of impunity within the state administration, decaying infrastructure and the unresolved teachers' recruitment dispute kept the pot boiling.

Taken together, these factors produced an amount of distrust among the educated middle class that Trinamool had rarely encountered.

"The city, like the state, was not making much progress. Basic infrastructure got neglected because of the burden of doles. They said 'khela hobe' and now the game is over," said PhD scholar Aniket Banerjee, who is forced to search for a job outside the state.

Zero gravity: TMC loses it all in 8 districts

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: BJP has delivered a sweeping blow to TMC across eight districts of Bengal — the scale of the victory underlining not just anti-incumbency, but also the saffron party's growing ability to convert social coalitions, local grievances and organisational strength into a decisive electoral machine.

The most dramatic story came from East Midnapore, where BJP completed a clean sweep of all 16 seats, overturning the 2021 picture when TMC held nine.

Across the Himalayan and sub-Himalayan belt — Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar — the saffron party dominated. TMC failed to hold ground despite sustained efforts to recover lost support in tea garden areas and among regional communities.

In Jhargram, BJP won all four assembly seats, snatching a district that was entirely with TMC in 2021. BJP also won all nine seats in Purulia, another Kurmi-dominated pocket where anti-TMC sentiments prevailed.

Bankura followed the same script. BJP won all 12 seats, improving on its 2021 show, when it won eight.

BJP retains Matua support despite SIR

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: Despite discontent within the Matua community over large-scale deletions under SIR, and the issue of citizenship certificates under CAA, the BJP retained its foothold in the border districts of Bongaon and Nadia.

The party also captured Bagdah seat, which falls in North 24 Parganas district, by a landslide margin after losing it in the last assembly bypoll. The Matuas, who have largely backed the BJP since the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, appear to have consolidated behind it again, helping the saffron party retain at least six seats where candidates were leading with substantial margins.

Though politically crucial, the Matuas are a marginalised Hindu sect, primarily comprising the Namasudra scheduled caste group. Bongaon and Nadia comprise large Matua refugee settlements, comprising people displaced from present-day Bangladesh.

For many, the SIR exclusion triggered deep anxieties. According to sources, the removal of 1.2 lakh names under SIR triggered sharp political and social fault lines in Matua-dominated seats in North 24 Parganas and Nadia.

In Nadia's six assembly constituencies, over 90% of those placed under adjudication failed to make it to the final roll. A comparable pattern was observed across all six assembly segments in Bongaon, where deletions ranged from 67% to 88%.

Bagdah emerged as the stage for a high-voltage battle featuring members of the influential Thakurbari family. The contest drew widespread attention across the Matua heartland as BJP candidate Soma Thakur, wife of junior Union minister and BJP's Bongaon MP Shantanu Thakur, took on Trinamool MLA Madhuparna Thakur, her sister-in-law.

Soma won by 34,321 votes. "All facilities and benefits for the Matua community will be ensured," she said.

BJP's Bongaon Uttar candidate, Ashoke Kirtaniya, won the seat for the second time by nearly 25,000 votes. Ashim Sarkar, the Haringhata BJP candidate, won by 22,217 votes. "With this win, the citizenship of every Matua has been ensured," said Shantanu Thakur, BJP-led All India Matua Mahasangha Sanghadhipati.

Political observers suggested that identity-driven support and long-standing affiliations outweighed immediate concerns related to electoral roll revisions for the Matua electorate.

Welfare vs welfare: How BJP trumped Mamata's 'pro-woman' appeal

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CHEERING CHANGE

Kolkata: A key pillar of Trinamool Congress's electoral strength in West Bengal since 2011, women turned up to vote in higher numbers than men in this year's assembly elections. Yet, the decisive swing in favour of the BJP suggests they might have gravitated away from Mamata Banerjee.

What appears to have worked for the saffron party is a tactical U-turn on welfare politics, a space it had earlier criticised.

This time, the Bharatiya Janata Party embraced cash transfer schemes and also outbid the TMC on nearly every front. If the TMC offered Rs 1,500 per month to general category women under its flagship Lakshmir Bhandar scheme, the BJP promised Rs 3,000.

It also pledged Rs 3,000 monthly assistance to unemployed youth and Rs 9,000 support for farmers, effectively raising the stakes in the welfare contest.

The BJP's pitch for women's reservation in the Lok Sabha further strengthened its outreach. According to Election Commission data, the female turnout stood at 93.2%, higher than the 91.7% recorded for men.

So far, Mamata Banerjee had cultivated a strong "pro-woman, elder sister" image. This reflected in earlier electoral outcomes since 2011.

TMC's welfare schemes	BJP's promises
Lakshmir Bhandar | ₹1,500/ month for general category women, ₹1,700 for SC/ ST	➤ ₹3,000 per month to women
Swasthya Sathi | Health cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family	➤ ₹21,000 and 6 nutritional kits to pregnant women from marginalised families
Banglar Yuva Sathi | ₹1,500 for every educated youth (21-40 years) for up to 5 years	➤ ₹50,000 to girls during college admission
Kanyashree Prakalpa | ₹25,000 grant and scholarships for girls to encourage education	➤ ₹15,000 for candidates of competitive exams
Widow Pension Scheme | ₹1,000 per month to widows	➤ Monthly allowance of ₹3,000 to unemployed youth
	➤ Self-employment opportunities & 1 crore new jobs

According to a CSDS-Lokniti survey, carried out after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in which the TMC won 29 of the state's 42 seats, 53% of women voters backed Mamata, largely due to targeted welfare schemes.

However, analysts suggest the mood may have shifted. Kolkata-based Sabar Institute director Sabir Ahamed said women's safety emerged as a significant issue. He said the Aug 2024 rape-and-murder case of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital was a pivotal point on this count. "Women responded strongly to it. The BJP's higher-value cash transfer promises may also have appealed more," he said.

Job opportunities and healthcare were other factors that may have aided the BJP's surge, said Rabindra Bharati University former vice-chancellor Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury.

Ahamed also pointed to the West Bengal School Service Commission recruitment scam, which had a wide impact. In April 2025, the Supreme Court invalidated 25,753 appointments linked to the cash-for-jobs scam in teaching and non-teaching roles.

The scam had a fallout on the electoral outcome too. "It appears women voters were not just looking for financial assistance, but employment opportunities and a credible vision for their future," Basu Ray Chaudhury said.

Bengal Women: Ahead On Health, Behind On Assets

Women in the state are more educated, have smaller families and are healthier than the average Indian woman. The sex ratio is better, and they have more say in their family. However, they fare poorly in asset ownership

Figures are % unless mentioned
Source: NFHS-5, RBI and Mospi

Better Educated Than Their National Peers

Women (6 yrs+) who've attended school

Bengal	76.8
India avg	71.8

Women who are literate

	72.9
	71.5

Women with 10+ yrs of schooling

	32.9
	41.0

Have Better Access To Med Facilities

	WB	INDIA
Total fertility rate	1.6	2.0
Institutional births	91.7	88.6
Underweight women	14.8	18.7
Maternal mortality ratio (per 1 lakh live births)	104	88

And Live Longer

Sex ratio at birth (per 1,000 males)	973	929
Life expectancy (yrs)	74.0	72.5

But Lag On Assets

	WB	INDIA
Women who own house and/or land*	23.2	43.3
Have own bank or savings account	76.5	78.6
Own mobile phone	50.1	54.0
Households using clean cooking fuel	40.2	58.6

*Alone or jointly with others

Though They've Greater Say In Household And Finances

	WB	INDIA
Married women with a say in household decisions	88.9	88.7
Women who faced spousal violence	27.0	29.3
Labour force participation rate (15-59 yrs)		
Urban	33.5	30.8
Rural	44.7	49.5
Worked last one year and got paid in cash	20.2	25.4

Mamatata: Routed Didi Fumes At SIRprise

TMC Chief's 15-Year Reign As CM Ends With Stinging Defeat For Party & For Herself

Photos: Mona Chowdhury, Sajal Mukherjee, IANS

(From left) Mamata in hospital after being assaulted by rivals in Kolkata; waving at supporters from Writers' Buildings after her historic victory in 2011; at a counting centre on Monday when TMC lost the election

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A seismic political shift in Bengal brought the Mamata Banerjee era in the state to an end on Monday, robbing the three-time chief minister of a historic fourth term — had Trinamool won, she would have become India's longest-serving woman CM — and taking down a pillar of INDIA bloc.

The stunning defeat, not just for her party but for Mamata herself — she lost Bhabanipur to Suvendu Adhikari – puts her back in opposition in West Bengal, a position where she cut her teeth as a firebrand, streetfighter politician, except age is no longer on the 71-year-old's side.

No stranger to tough challenges, Mamata, who architected Left Front's downfall in 2011 after 34 years in office, riding on the land agitations at Singur (against the Tata Nano factory) and Nandigram, was up against anti-incumbency of her own 15-year reign this time. She had no answers.

She went all-out against Election Commission's SIR of the electoral rolls and the controversial 'logical discrepancy' criteria that was used in Bengal. In Supreme Court, her appearance as the 'people's petitioner' showed she hadn't lost her fight-to-the-end instinct, whether the arena was a Kolkata street or a courtroom in Delhi.

But SIR, as Monday's result showed, wasn't to be the tool that would neutralise anti-incumbency for Trinamool.

The drubbing in the assembly polls came as a shocker to Mamata and Trinamool. "I do not accept this loss. I will be back," she said.

But it had become clear since the Lok Sabha election in 2019 that BJP was on mission mode in Bengal, willing to pull out all the stops to build on its record 38% vote share. In 2021, she had faced a stiff saffron challenge too that was led by Modi, but Mamata prevailed with her 'Khela hobe' campaign, welfare pitch and appeal to protect Bengali culture from outsiders.

This time, they didn't work despite the introduction of Yuva Sathi (a monthly assistance of Rs 1,500 for Class X passouts between 21 and 40 years old who are unemployed) and the increased allocation for the scheme for women, Lakshmir Bhandar (to Rs 1,500 a month from Rs 1,200). More than 81 lakh (over 10% of Bengal's voters) queued up to be enrolled on Yuva Sathi. But when they queued up at polling booths, the scheme wasn't enough persuasion to vote TMC.

There were several factors weighing Mamata down like allegations of corruption against party colleagues and the teacher recruitment scam. Mamata had appealed to voters in 2021, "Every vote for Trinamool is a vote for Mamata Banerjee; forget the candidate." It resonated. She made the same appeal this time.

TMC retaining more than 40% of the vote share despite BJP sailing to 207 seats shows the message still had stickiness but not enough. Losing Bengal also weakens Mamata's position in the opposition alliance against BJP despite TMC's strong presence in Lok Sabha, with Congress once again likely to call the shots. Mamata will, however, take heart from the vote share. Didi is down, but not totally out.

Bhabanipur hands Mamata her most personal loss

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Kolkata: On a day Trinamool was dismantled, the hammer blow for the party landed at the fag end — with Mamata Banerjee losing her bastion of Bhabanipur to BJP's Suvendu Adhikari by 15,105 votes.

For 15 years, it had been her home turf, a constituency she shaped and returned to whenever the ground shifted beneath her, and its loss is the most personal defeat of her political career.

Bhabanipur has been TMC territory since 2011, when Subrata Bakshi won it for the party before vacating the seat so Mamata could enter the assembly after becoming CM. She won the seat in 2011, 2016, and again in a 2021 bypoll by a staggering 58,835 votes, her largest ever margin in the constituency.

In the 2021 general elections, she had chosen to contest from Nandigram and lost narrowly to Suvendu. TMC's Sovandeb Chattopadhyay, who had won Bhabanipur, resigned to make way for her. But in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, TMC's lead in Bhabanipur shrank to just over 8,000 votes, signalling an already dwindling base for the TMC chief.

> **We have waited years for this moment. People have voted for change and you can see that energy on the streets today**
> **A BJP SUPPORTER**

Monday's defeat is Mamata's second successive loss to Suvendu. In 2021, the CM had taken the battle to his home turf. This time around, he marched into her bastion.

Though early trends favoured Suvendu, Mamata had bounced back after the third round, leading by over 19,000 votes at one point — triggering murmurs that the contest might tilt in her favour after all. But Suvendu mounted a rapid comeback.

"We have waited years for this moment. People have voted for change and you can see that energy on the streets today," said Kamal Jindal, a BJP supporter near the counting centre, who was distributing sweets. Another supporter, Nikita Agarwal, added, "This is not just a victory, it is a message. Bengal wanted development and today that voice was finally heard."

Mamata claimed she was defeated by force, and that the election was rigged and looted by BJP. She said she would soon return.

Tension escalated when TMC alleged BJP workers assaulted their counting agent and forced them out. Mamata rushed to the venue. As her convoy reached Sakhawat Memorial High School, the counting centre, BJP supporters erupted in chants of "thief, thief" and "go back". She stayed there till 8pm before being escorted out by central forces.

"We don't have words," said one TMC worker, slowly unpinning the party symbol from his shirt.

Tops & Flops

RASHBEHARI

Swapan Dasgupta (BJP) defeated **Debashish Kumar** (TMC) by **20,865 votes**

It was a return to roots for the former Rajya Sabha MP as he contested the seat where his Kolkata home is located

SONARPUR DAKSHIN

Rupa Ganguly (BJP) defeated **Arundhuti Maitra** (TMC) by **35,782 votes**

The actor of late 80s TV hit Mahabharata fame is a prominent face for BJP in Bengal and had led its mahila morcha

BAHARAMPUR

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (Cong) lost to **Subrata Maitra** (BJP) by **17,548 votes**

With Congress facing an existential crisis in Bengal, Chowdhury took up the challenge to reclaim his old turf in Murshidabad district

MALATIPUR

Mausam Benazir Noor (Cong) lost to **Abdur Rahim Boxi** (TMC) by **59,747 votes**

The niece of Congress icon ABA Ghani Khan Chowdhury returned to her old party after a stint in TMC

ASANSOL DAKSHIN

Agnimitra Paul (BJP) defeated **Tapas Banerjee** (TMC) by **40,839 votes**

The fashion designer-turned-politician had won this seat in 2021 after defeating now-Trinamool MP and actor Saayoni Ghosh

Lieutenant to conqueror: The rise and rise of Suvendu

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: BJP's massive victory in the West Bengal polls came despite not having a state face. Yet, the spotlight automatically turned to Suvendu Adhikari, Mamata Banerjee's lieutenant-turned-bete noire who boarded a flight to Delhi as saffron celebrations broke out across the state.

Suvendu, who retained Nandigram and pulled off the biggest upset of the polls defeating Mamata in Bhabanipur, symbolised BJP's aggressive campaign that sought to box the CM in on "Trinamool goondas" and "politics of Muslim appeasement", ultimately helping decimate the party his father, Sisir Adhikari, had helped form.

Asked by reporters on Monday evening whether he was BJP's CM candidate, Adhikari responded by saying, "There is no change in me... I am not power-hungry."

Suvendu began his political career with Congress, elected a councillor in Kanthi municipality in 1995. He joined Trinamool Congress in 1998 and won the Contai South assembly seat in 2006.

His rise came during the 2007 land agitation against Left Front govt's proposed chemical hub in Nandigram. Suvendu was one of the key organisers of the movement whose momentum propelled TMC to office, unseating Left Front after 34 years. He entered national politics in 2009 with a win in Tamluk, which he retained in 2014. In 2016, Suvendu returned to state politics, winning the Nandigram polls on a Trinamool ticket, and joined Mamata's cabinet.

His break with TMC came in Dec 2020 when, amid growing differences with the party, Suvendu joined BJP.

After defeating Mamata in Nandigram in 2021 , he became Bengal's leader of opposition. In his new role, he trained his guns on Bangladeshis and Rohingya and lauded "nationalist Muslims".

As someone who had not been part of RSS or BJP's ideological traditions, Suvendu's jersey switch was viewed with caution by netas in the saffron party. However, his admission that he wasn't an "insider" but was "no less devoted to the party", and his seamless equation with BJP president Samik Bhattacharya helped bridge gaps.

For the last five years, Suvendu's political pitch focused on corruption, misgovernance, lack of jobs, brain drain — and also Hindutva. On Monday, he said, "All Hindus are united in favour of Narendra Modi... Hindu EVMs mean BJP, Muslim EVMs mean TMC..."

Sayantan Chakraborty

LOTUS FOCUS: Suvendu helped decimate the party his father helped form

Nandigram stays Suvendu bastion

Nandigram has once again proven impregnable. Hours after results confirmed Suvendu Adhikari's second consecutive victory, BJP insiders said it was "game, set and match" from the moment the campaign began. He finished with a victory margin of over 10,000. "Trinamool did not get Muslim votes exclusively," he said. Suvendu's victory over former protege Pabitra Kar reflected his 365-day ground machinery. Aware that his 'Ghorer Chhele' pitch was neutralised by Kar's Nandigram roots, he pivoted to a sharper strategy. Suvendu leaned into economic populism and identity politics: a Rs 3,000 monthly handout for women, fair job selection, and consolidation of the Hindu vote in a constituency that is 46% minority. TNN

Bengal BJP brass in Delhi as focus shifts to picking CM

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Kolkata: Who will be the next chief minister of Bengal? BJP — which had not announced any CM face going into the polls — is likely to hold a series of meetings in Delhi to figure out just that. The meets, said sources, would be chaired by PM Modi and attended by Union home minister Amit Shah, national president Nitin Nabin, and the party's parliamentary board.

'Giant-killer' Adhikari and Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya may be asked to stay in Delhi over the next few days, sources told **TOI**.

Going into the polls, BJP may have opted for a "collective leadership" approach, but Shah had said during campaigning that the next CM would be "born and raised in Bengal" and educated in a Bengali-medium school. "The CM will be selected first, followed by other cabinet ministers," said a BJP neta. "The discussions over candidates will start from Tuesday, and there will be equal emphasis on veterans and newly elected MLAs."

More than 100 netas with RSS roots have won. They would also get prominence while the new cabinet was being considered, the neta said.

Party sources said the cabinet was likely to be a mix of seniority and young blood, even as names of Swapan Dasgupta, Agnimitra Paul, Nishith Pramanik, Ritesh Tiwari, Rupa Ganguly and Rudranil Ghosh did the rounds alongside those of veterans, such as Vijay Ojha, Umesh Rai and Sanjay Singh.

A low five for Trinamool as Kolkata fortress falls

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: The Kolkata fortress of Trinamool Congress was breached on Monday, leaving a trail of high-profile casualties that included party chief Mamata Banerjee.

In a staggering reversal of 2021 — when it swept all 11 Kolkata seats — Trinamool was reduced to a mere five. The city's southern suburbs voted for change, handing over its strongholds Jadavpur and Sonarpur to BJP. Kasba, however, remained loyal to the party.

The scale of the collapse could be measured by the defeat of senior ministers who were considered architects of the party's urban machinery. But Mamata's defeat will rankle the most.

Shashi Panja lost Shyampukur to RSS ideologue Purnima Chakraborty by a margin of 14,633. Similarly, influential power minister Aroop Biswas, a key organiser in south Kolkata, lost what was once a safe haven – Tollygunge. Actor Papia Adhikary drew the curtains on him.

The administrative leadership of the city also faced a public trial. Atin Ghosh, deputy mayor of Kolkata, lost from the Belgachhia-Cossipore segment to BJP's Ritesh Tiwari by 1651 votes. The rout extended to his mayor-in-council colleagues — Debasish Kumar from Rashbehari, who was defeated by Swapan Dasgupta of BJP, and Debabrata Majumdar from Jadavpur.

Ratna Chatterjee, sitting MLA and former councillor, lost Behala West to oncologist Indranil Khan of BJP. The constituency had elected former education minister Partha Chatterjee for five terms since 2001. There were some face-saving victories for TMC though. Mayor Firhad Hakim secured Kolkata Port while veteran leader Sobhandeb Chatterjee won in Ballygunge. State minister Javed Ahmed Khan won for the fourth consecutive time in Kasba and party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh won in Beliaghata. Veteran politician Nayana Bandyopadhyay bagged Chowringhee and Sandipan Saha won from Entally.

The BJP juggernaut rolled through Kashipur-Belgachhia, Shyampukur, Maniktala and Jorasanko, which had remained with Trinamool since the 'Paribartan' in 2011. In Jorasanko, BJP's Vijay Ojha defeated Trinamool candidate Vijay Upadhyay by a margin of 5,797. In 2021, former Trinamool MLA Vivek Gupta had defeated BJP candidate Meena Devi Purohit by 12,743.

Maniktala had been a TMC bastion since 2011 when Sadhan Pande won. After his death in 2024, wife Supti Pande had secured a victory. This time their dau-ghter, Shreya Pande lost to BJP's Tapas Roy by 15,644 votes.

On the outskirts, Bhangar was won by ISF's Naushad Siddiqui, who defeated influential south Kolkata leader Saokat Molla of Trinamool. Veteran actor Rupa Ganguly defeated Lovely Maitra, MLA in Sonarpur South. In Sonarpur North, BJP's Debasish Dhar was leading by over 11,000 over Trinamool MLA Firdousi Begum.

Trinamool also lost its 15-year strongholds of Bidhannagar and Rajarhat Gopalpur. TMC, however, managed to retain Rajarhat New Town with Tapash Chatterjee winning by a narrow margin.

Subhojyoti Kanjilal

DEFEATED, DEJECTED

From a blank, Cong & Left make assembly return

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Kolkata: After five years in wilderness, CPM and Congress will return to the assembly with BJP on the treasury benches and Trinamool sharing the opposition space.

It is Murshidabad that has reopened the assembly doors for the two parties.

CPM, with a vote share of 4.45%, won the Domkal seat while Congress, with a vote share of 3%, won two — Farakka and Raninagar. Unlike in 2021, this time the two parties went their separate ways.

"Despite our sincere efforts, the failure to reach an understanding with Congress allowed BJP to capture the space for an alternative to Trinamool Congress," confessed CPM state secretary Md Salim. "After a long time, there will be a leftist MLA in the assembly. The party is committed to the goal of continuing movements in the interest of people both inside and outside the house. Leftist workers will remain by the side of the people in any situation."

FRINGE PLAYERS

	Seats won		Vote Share (%)
2016	Cong	44	12.3
	Left	32	25.7
2021	0		3.0
	0		5.7
2026	2		3.0
	2		6.6

From top left: CPM's Mostafijur Rahaman; Cong's Julfikar Ali & Motab Shaikh

CPM's alliance partner, Indian Secular Front, won Bhangar. Naushad Siddiqui defeated Saokat Molla of Trinamool in the constituency.

With these victories in minority-dominated Murshidabad, CPM and Congress have made a dent in Trinamool's clout in these parts. In 2021, Trinamool had bagged 20 out of 22 seats in this district with BJP winning the other two. On Monday, the party was reduced to just nine.

The two victories apart, all prominent Congress faces — Adhir Chowdhury in Berhampore, party president Subhankar Sarkar and Mausam Benazir Noor — lost.

"I accept the mandate of the people. I hope that this is a good beginning for the journey into the future," said Pradesh Congress president Subhankar Sarkar. "Fifteen years of Trinamool's governance had been marked by rampant corruption, political violence, lack of development and unemployment."

"Thousands of genuine voters could not vote this time. The large turnout was a result of people's fear of losing their voting rights in the next election if they failed to vote this time," Sarkar said.

Asserting that the changed political scenario will now help Congress emerge as "the only alternative" to BJP across the state, Sarkar said, "there are many who committed suicide during the SIR process. Those who are trying to claim there were no deaths this time should also consider that. One of our party workers died during this period and no other party has suffered more pain than Congress during SIR in Bengal," he said.

'Step towards justice': RG Kar victim's mom wins Panihati

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Kolkata: The mother of the raped-and-murdered trainee doctor of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital won the Panihati assembly constituency for BJP on Monday, leading from the first round of counting and polling 87,977 votes by the end.

With the 28,836-vote win, she also defeated TMC on a seat it had not lost since 2011. The Aug 2024 RG Kar case had become a rallying point for women's safety, drawing sharp criticism for the TMC govt. In a post on social media, the victim's mother called the victory a step towards attaining justice for her daughter. "I am certain it will be achieved one day," she wrote.

After contesting the election, she had been trying to downplay talk of her reaping electoral benefit from her daughter's death. In a social media post on Sunday night, she had appealed to people "not to misunderstand" her.

This was, perhaps, the fallout of her facing slogans of "go back" when she visited TMC-dominated areas for campaigning on April 29.

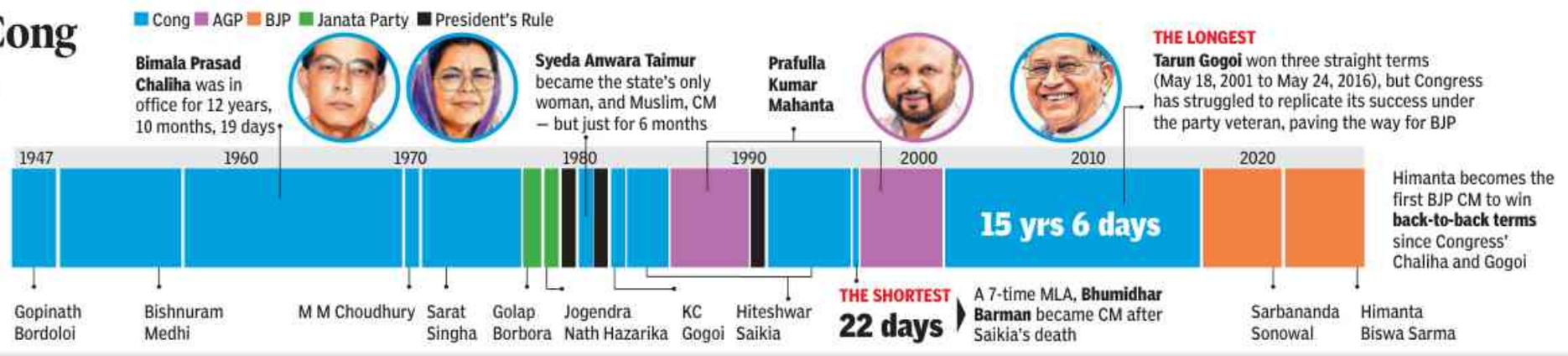
The win also meant that a significant section of Kolkata's northern fringes broke away from allegiance to the TMC. BJP candidates won from Khardah, Dum Dum North, Dum Dum, and Baranagar seats in an area where TMC had been unshakeable for 15 years.

Madan Mitra was the TMC's only consolation, winning from Kamarhati by 5,646 votes. In Panihati, celebrations at the BJP camp began after the third round of counting, when their victor was leading by 13,784 votes. Across the road, where TMC had set up camp, the mood turned sombre after 10 am.

TMC candidate Tirthankar Ghosh stayed home, keeping track of the results on TV. For the BJP, a worker summed up the mood. "She and the people of Panihati have given a proper answer. They never understood she had lost her daughter," the worker said.

Assam Politics: From Cong Dominance To BJP Era

Congress dominated Assam politics until 1978. A brief spell under a Janata Party govt (1978–79) was followed by central rule, after which Congress returned again. The 1980s were turbulent, and a student agitation helped 32-year-old Prafulla Mahanta become India's youngest CM. Since then, most CMs have completed full terms


Cong AGP BJP Janata Party President's Rule
Bimala Prasad Chaliha was in office for 12 years, 10 months, 19 days
Syeda Anwara Taimur became the state's only woman, and Muslim, CM — but just for 6 months
Prafulla Kumar Mahanta
THE LONGEST
Tarun Gogoi won three straight terms (May 18, 2001 to May 24, 2016), but Congress has struggled to replicate its success under the party veteran, paving the way for BJP
1947 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020
15 yrs 6 days
Himanta becomes the first BJP CM to win back-to-back terms since Congress' Chaliha and Gogoi
Gopinath Bordoloi
Bishnuram Medhi
M M Choudhury
Sarat Singha
Golap Borbora
Jogendra Nath Hazarika
KC Gogoi
Hiteshwar Saikia
THE SHORTEST
22 days
A 7-time MLA, Bhumidhar Barman became CM after Saikia's death
Sarbananda Sonowal
Himanta Biswa Sarma

Masterful Mama Delivers Magic Majority

Delimited seats give saffron party a multiplier effect

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Delimitation proved the wild card in Assam's first assembly poll since the boundaries of constituencies were redrawn in 2023, cutting the number of Muslim-majority seats from 35 to 22 to leave BJP's two main rivals — Congress and AIUDF — fighting an existential battle against each other.

22 of 24: Muslim-heavy oppn in new House

The opposition in the 126-strong Assam assembly will be almost entirely Muslim, with 22 of the 24 elected MLAs of non-NDA parties being from the community. Congress, which won 19 seats, accounts for the largest bloc of Muslim MLAs with 18. AIUDF with two and one each from Raijor Dal and Trinamool Congress complete the list, reports **Prabin Kalita.**

The only two Hindu faces in the opposition are Raijor Dal chief Akhil Gogoi, who retained the Sibsagar seat, and Congress' Joyprakash Das, who won from the Naoboicha seat that has a sizeable Muslim vote. All Hindu sitting MLAs of Congress ended up losing their seats in what has been an unusual election in more ways than one.

"It is unfortunate that all but one MLA in Congress follows Islam," CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said. "I am not trying to say Hindus or Muslims have won. I am only giving the data, and it is for you to analyse it." He appealed to "good, visionary Hindus in Congress" to join BJP and "protect Assamese people from Bangladeshi miyas' invasion".

Although the number of assembly seats remained unchanged at 126, delimitation altered the representation matrix, keeping the number of Muslim MLAs below 25 while making indigenous communities the decisive factor in 103 seats, up from 90.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma had been saying all along that delimitation would ensure indigenous communities held over 100 of the 126 seats at stake. The poll outcome delivered a bonus for BJP. Congress improved its position within the shrunk Muslim-majority belt at the cost of perfume tycoon Badruddin Ajmal's AIUDF.

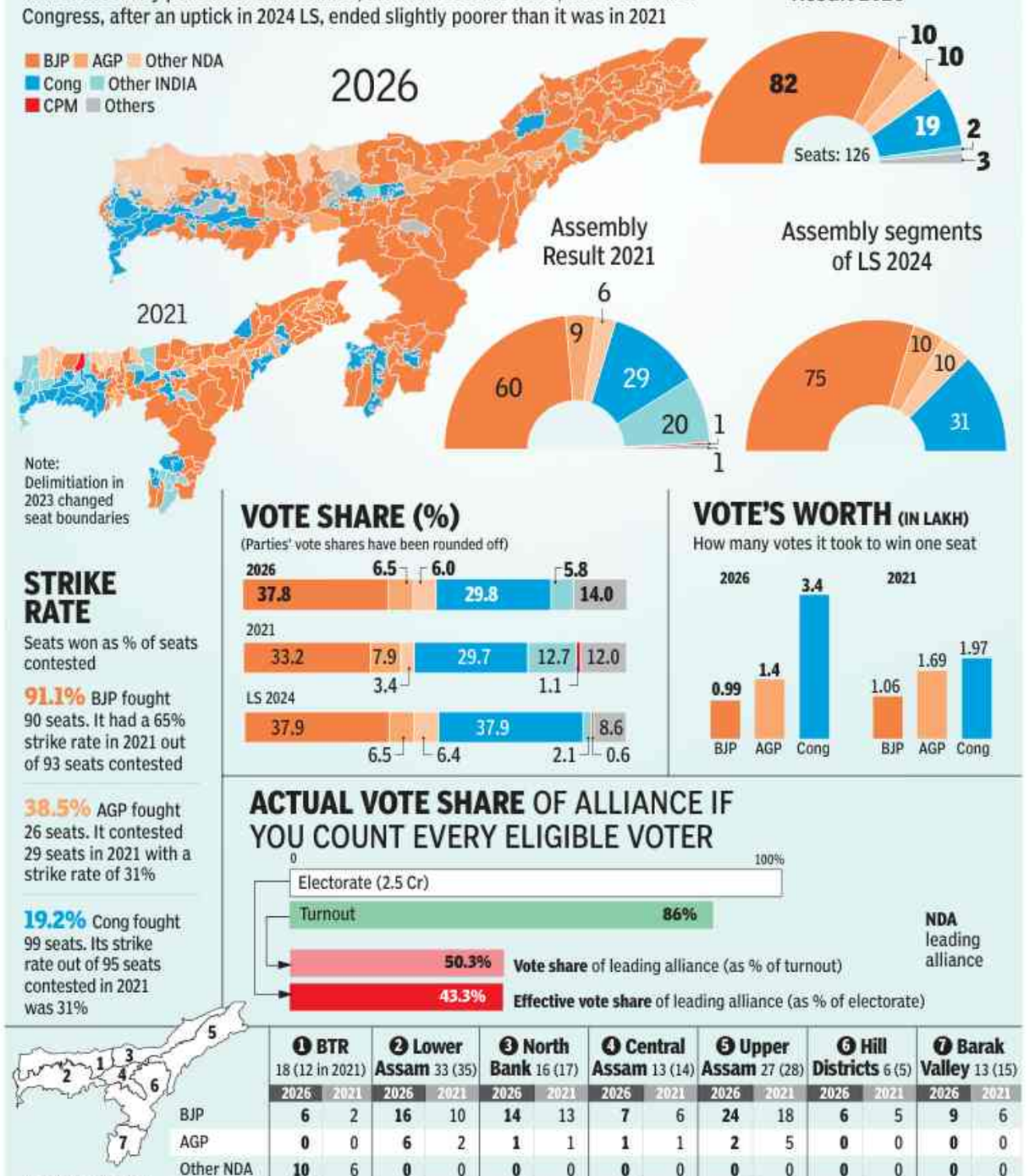
The state's new electoral geography had rocked the opposition's balance even before the polls. Several sitting AIUDF legislators jumped ship, joining NDA constituent AGP to ensure they wouldn't miss the bus in the scramble for fewer tickets than before. For BJP, this was a strategic fit, increasing NDA's prospects in seats where the Muslim vote would be decisive. While the script didn't exactly play out as planned, AIUDF ending up with just two seats was just what BJP would have wanted.

The 2023 delimitation exercise not only reduced the weight of constituencies where Bengali-origin Muslim voters had long held sway but also expanded the number of seats reserved for STs from 16 to 19. SC seats increased by one to nine. The redrawn seats included Congress strongholds across lower, central and southern Assam with a high concentration of Muslim voters.

Assam's politics has long been shaped by illegal immigration from Bangladesh.

The Assam Accord of 1985, born out of a mass agitation, fixed March 25, 1971, as the cut-off for citizenship. But there have been allegations of continued illegal influx even after that. BJP has consistently argued that the state's political trajectory should be determined by indigenous communities rather than migrant-origin Muslim populations.

Voting patterns among minorities in the state were historically aligned with the party in govt until BJP formed its first ministry in 2016. That dynamic has shifted further after delimitation, with voters in the remaining Muslim-majority seats backing Congress amid concerns about whether their interests are safe under BJP.


ASSAM 126 SEATS
NOW A DEEPER SHADE OF SAFFRON
In first assembly polls after delimitation, BJP increased its seats, and vote share. Congress, after an uptick in 2024 LS, ended slightly poorer than it was in 2021
BJP AGP Other NDA
Cong Other INDIA
CPM Others
2026
2021
Note: Delimitation in 2023 changed seat boundaries
Assembly Result 2026
82 10 10 19 2 3
Seats: 126
Assembly Result 2021
60 9 6 29 20 1 1
Assembly segments of LS 2024
75 10 10 31
STRIKE RATE
Seats won as % of seats contested
91.1% BJP fought 90 seats. It had a 65% strike rate in 2021 out of 93 seats contested
38.5% AGP fought 26 seats. It contested 29 seats in 2021 with a strike rate of 31%
19.2% Cong fought 99 seats. Its strike rate out of 95 seats contested in 2021 was 31%
VOTE SHARE (%)
(Parties' vote shares have been rounded off)
2026 37.8 6.5 6.0 29.8 5.8 14.0
2021 33.2 7.9 3.4 29.7 12.7 1.1 12.0
LS 2024 37.9 6.5 37.9 6.4 2.1 8.6 0.6
VOTE'S WORTH (IN LAKH)
How many votes it took to win one seat
2026: BJP 0.99, AGP 1.4, Cong 3.4
2021: BJP 1.06, AGP 1.69, Cong 1.97
ACTUAL VOTE SHARE OF ALLIANCE IF YOU COUNT EVERY ELIGIBLE VOTER
Electorate (2.5 Cr)
Turnout 86%
50.3% Vote share of leading alliance (as % of turnout)
43.3% Effective vote share of leading alliance (as % of electorate)
NDA leading alliance
HOW THE REGIONS VOTED
❶ BTR 18 (12 in 2021); ❷ Lower Assam 33 (35); ❸ North Bank 16 (17); ❹ Central Assam 13 (14); ❺ Upper Assam 27 (28); ❻ Hill Districts 6 (5); ❼ Barak Valley 13 (15)
BJP 6 2 16 10 14 13 7 6 24 18 6 5 9 6
AGP 0 0 6 2 1 1 1 1 2 5 0 0 0 0
Other NDA 10 6 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Cong 1 0 10 14 1 2 3 5 0 4 0 0 4 4
Other INDIA 0 4 0 8 0 1 1 2 1 0 0 0 0 5
Left 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Others 1 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0
Highest Margin 1,19,097 AS Ali Sarkar of Cong beat Nizanur Rahman of AIUDF at Gauripur
Lowest Margin 724 Prakash Chandra Das of AGP defeated Nandita Das of Cong in Hajo Sualkuchi
Youngest MLA 27 Yrs Tanzil Hussain of Cong, who won the Samaguri seat
Oldest MLA 71 Yrs Prasanta Phukan of BJP. He won the Dibrugarh seat
Richest MLA ₹226.3Cr Badruddin Ajmal of AIUDF, who won from Binnakandi
Source: ECI, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) | MyNeta.info

Man with message, machinery, and the mandate

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Guwahati: A student's ambition, spoken lightly in the corridors of Cotton College. A chief ministership imagined in youth. Himanta Biswa Sarma turned that early hint into a political fact in 2021. Five years on, the Assam CM has delivered his most emphatic proof yet — a decisive 2026 mandate that pushes BJP well past the halfway mark of 64 in the 126-member assembly, securing a third straight term for NDA without reliance on allies.

For the first time, the election revolved around Sarma — endearingly called 'Mama' — not as a backroom tactician but as the face of the campaign. The shift was unmistakable. The outcome, resounding.

In the previous two assembly contests, BJP stalled at 60 seats and leaned on partners. This time, it surged ahead on its own strength. The victory cements Sarma's position as the central force in Assam's politics, a 57-year-old operator who has fused administrative control with political messaging.

His appeal cut across Assam. Welfare delivery — direct benefit transfers, women-centric schemes — combined with visible infrastructure projects to blunt anti-incumbency. The campaign's cadence was sharp, often combative, and tightly aligned with BJP's national brass.

Sarma credited PM Modi, Union minister Amit Shah, and BJP chief Nitin Nabin for the victory. He called the mandate "historic and unprecedented", deflecting personal credit. "The election was fought on the face of the PM and BJP workers. I am also a BJP karyakarta," he said.

Jalukbari — a seat he has held since 2001 — reaffirmed that connection. While Sarma crisscrossed the state, his wife anchored the campaign at home, reinforcing local ties. The result was overwhelming: a margin of nearly 90,000 votes over Congress candidate Bidisha Neog.

The campaign was not without friction. Sarma's rhetoric on illegal immigration of Bengali-speaking Muslims drew criticism outside Assam, branded by some as hate speech. Within the state, it resonated with a section of voters who see Muslim immigrants — labelled as 'Miya' and estimated by govt at more than one crore — as an enduring fault line tied to identity and land.

THE SARMA SURGE

That theme is set to continue. Sarma announced eviction drives from forests and govt land would intensify. "In the last tenure we cleared 1.5 lakh bigha of illegally occupied land. This will increase this time," he said.

Sarma's trajectory explains the moment. From student politics in Aasu to a key Congress member under CM Tarun Gogoi, he built his reputation across finance, health, and education portfolios. A fallout with Congress in 2015 triggered his switch to BJP, catalysing a political realignment that ended Congress' 15-year unbroken tenure in 2016.

As convenor of the North-East Democratic Alliance, he expanded BJP's reach across the region before taking charge as CM in May 2021.

What sets this victory apart is ownership. No longer the strategist behind the curtain, Sarma stood at the centre — message, machine, and mandate converging around him.

Tops & Flops

DISPUR

Pradyut Bordoloi (BJP) defeated **Mira Borthakur Goswami** (Cong) by **49,667 votes**

The Congress veteran switched to BJP ahead of polls and took on the state Mahila Congress chief

HAFLONG

Nandita Gorlosa (Cong) lost to **Rupali Langthasa** (BJP) by **54,590 votes**

A state minister, she won the seat for BJP in 2021, but moved to Congress after being denied a ticket this time

KHOWANG

Lurinjyoti Gogoi (AJP) lost to **Chakradhar Gogoi** (BJP) by **9,984 votes**

The former All Assam Students' Union general secretary floated this party — part of the Congress alliance — following anti-CAA protests

SIBSAGAR

Akhil Gogoi (Raijor Dal) defeated **Kushal Dowari** (BJP) by **17,272 votes**

The Congress ally took on candidates of two NDA partners — BJP, AGP — in this Upper Assam seat

NAZIRA

Debabrata Saikia (Cong) lost to **Mayur Borgohain** (BJP) by **46,701 votes**

The leader of opposition in Assam assembly, he's the son of former CM Hiteswar Saikia

Good for Parliament, not for assembly?

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THE JORHAT JOLT

Guwahati: Growing up, Gaurav Gogoi saw his father Tarun Gogoi lead Congress to a threepeat in Assam. On Monday, that must be a distant memory, as he witnessed CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and the governing BJP repeat a similar feat, pushing Congress to near oblivion.

As for Gaurav, deputy leader of Congress in Lok Sabha and state party chief on whom many had pinned hopes to revive the party's fortunes in Assam, his first outing in an assembly poll ended in defeat.

Contesting from Jorhat, the seat from where his father Tarun first entered public life as a town committee member, 43-year-old Gaurav had hoped to translate his national stature into state leadership. This election was meant to be a defining moment. But voters had different plans, ensuring he was defeated by BJP veteran and former assembly speaker Hitendra Nath Goswami by over 23,000 votes.

Not just Jorhat, under Gaurav's leadership, Congress failed to retain several Hindu-majority constituencies, with sitting MLAs ousted by BJP challengers.

The party's tally collapsed to just 19 seats overall, compared to 29 in 2021, with a strike rate of 19% in contrast with BJP's 91%. Its vote share, though marginally, has also come down.

Gaurav's fiery speeches in Parliament, sharply critical of the govt, had earned him recognition as one of the party's most articulate voices. Many in Congress believed that his victory against BJP in Lok Sabha polls just two years back could be carried into the assembly. Now, the Jorhat defeat has exposed the limits of that national profile when confronted with the realities of grassroots politics.

Gaurav's inability to secure his own constituency has come as a big blow to the party, suggesting a disconnect between his parliamentary persona and everyday issues of voters in Jorhat. While his speeches in Delhi resonate with party workers and the national media, they did not translate into local trust or electoral support and BJP's organisational strength. Also, Goswami's veteran appeal proved too formidable.

In the end, voters seemed unconvinced that lineage alone could substitute for grassroots engagement, leaving Gaurav as a respected voice in Delhi but a leader struggling to find traction on home turf.

Under shadow of the lotus, regional outfits keep shrinking

Guwahati: Regionalism in Assam, once the dominant force in the state's politics, is at its weakest now.

Asom Gana Parishad, born out of the historic Assam movement against Bangladeshi infiltrators and twice forming the govt, has steadily declined since the rise of BJP. Reduced to its lowest tally of nine seats in 2021, the party has managed only a marginal improvement this time, securing 10 seats.

Once the largest regional party in the North-East, AGP, which handheld BJP in 2001 assembly polls and later in LS polls as a senior partner, now survives largely as a junior partner in the BJP-led NDA.

Similarly, two smaller and newer regional outfits, Raijor Dal and Assam Jatiya Parishad, which contested their second assembly elections in 2026, are still struggling to gain a solid foothold. While Raijor Dal, led by Akhil Gogoi, has managed to improve its 2021 tally of one seat to two, AJP has drawn a blank for the second time.

Two other regional parties, UPPL and BPF, based out of the Bodo heartland, are no better off. UPPL, which won six seats in 2021, has managed just one this time, while BPF, which won four last time, has bagged 10 seats.

Together, AGP, Raijor Dal and BPF hold 22 of Assam's 126 assembly seats, compared to BJP's 82. — **Prabin Kalita**

Himanta's 'Miya' label stuck on Cong, weaned away voters

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SAFFRON CELEBRATION

Guwahati: Twin blows at the top. Gaurav Gogoi and Debabrata Saikia defeated. A campaign built on sharp attacks — including on CM's family — and a pitch for justice for Zubeen Garg. Little to show at the ballot. Congress is left with a narrow, largely Muslim-majority base and shrinking reach in Assam.

The party won 19 seats — all Muslim-majority constituencies. Its footprint has tightened to pockets once shared with AIUDF, which has now faded, handing Congress a consolidated but limited vote bank.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma's sustained messaging appears to have cut through. He cast Congress as a 'Miya' party — a term for Bengali-speaking Muslims from Bangladesh. The label stuck, weakening Congress' ability to expand among indigenous tribal and Hindu voters.

Delimitation in 2023 compounded the problem. Muslim-majority seats fell from 35 to 22, narrowing the party's electoral runway. Muslims account for about 30% of Assam's electorate — roughly 75 lakh voters — and remain influential in these constituencies, but the concentration has isolated Congress politically.

A late six-party alliance failed to shift momentum. Losses in upper and northern Assam underlined the slide. Assam Congress chief Gogoi and leader of the opposition Saikia — sons of former CMs Tarun Gogoi and Hiteswar Saikia, respectively — both fell in their family strongholds.

For Congress, the verdict is stark. The road back runs through constituencies it no longer commands.

Inside Congress, unease surfaced. Gogoi did not comment. Party's Ripun Bora promised a review. "EVM manipulation is possible — results don't match Gen Z anger over delayed justice for Zubeen or fury at price rises," he said, adding many would question the result as the CM had predicted a near-100-seat tally for NDA, a projection echoed by exit polls.

Badruddin Ajmal's perfume loses fragrance

Kangkan Kalita & Mukut Das | TNN

BASE NOTE FAILS

Guwahati: The scent of success wore off. Badruddin Ajmal's AIUDF, once the principal voice of Muslim minorities in Assam, has crashed from 16 seats in the assembly to just two, signalling a sharp erosion of its political relevance as BJP's wider sweep and Congress' consolidation redraw the map.

The 70-year-old businessman-politician, whose family-run fragrance house, Ajmal Perfumes, is a global brand, returned to the fray after his 2024 LS defeat in Dhubri. He won from Binnakandi in Hojai. Mazibur Rahman held Dalgaon. Elsewhere, the party collapsed across lower Assam and Barak Valley despite over 90% turnout in Muslim-majority constituencies.

The surge in participation did not translate into votes for AIUDF. Instead, it consolidated behind Congress, which swept most minority-heavy seats. Constituencies with over 95% Muslim electorates — including Dhubri, Gauripur, Mankachar, Jaleswar, Chenga and Samaguri — tilted decisively toward Congress.

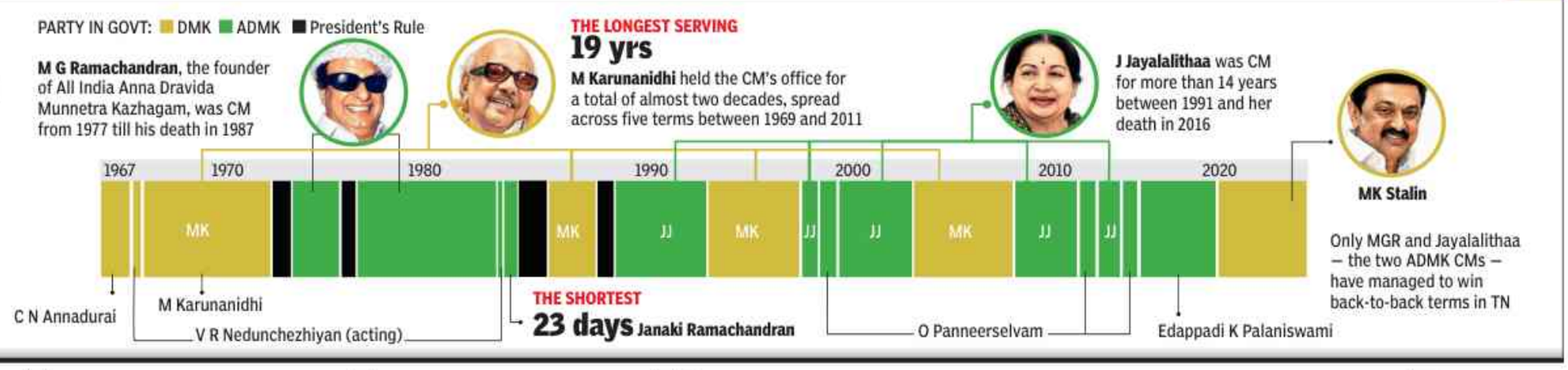
Political analyst Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Choudhury attributed the slide to leadership choices and perception. "Ajmal could have projected someone else. A man who cannot walk properly became a candidate. It signals they want to keep the party confined to family," he said.

AIUDF functionaries pointed to "wrong candidate selection" and a direct contest with Congress — unlike their 2021 alliance — as key factors. Rahman, who retained Dalgaon, framed the verdict as a broader opposition defeat. "We thought Gaurav Gogoi would become the CM, but he lost. It's painful," he said, crediting his own win to local development.

Formed in 2005 after SC scrapped IMDT Act, it had built its base among Bengali-speaking Muslims. Now, with no MPs and two MLAs, its future looks uncertain.

Three Decades Of Karunanidhi Vs Jaya

Since 1967, when DMK first formed the govt under its founder C N Annadurai, Tamil Nadu has been dominated by the Dravidian parties — DMK, and ADMK, founded by MGR. J Jayalalithaa's death weakened ADMK, which has struggled with divisions


PARTY IN GOVT: DMK ADMK President's Rule
M G Ramachandran, the founder of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, was CM from 1977 till his death in 1987
THE LONGEST SERVING
19 yrs
M Karunanidhi held the CM's office for a total of almost two decades, spread across five terms between 1969 and 2011
J Jayalalithaa was CM for more than 14 years between 1991 and her death in 2016
1967
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
MK
JJ
C N Annadurai
M Karunanidhi
V R Nedunchezhiyan (acting)
THE SHORTEST
23 days Janaki Ramachandran
O Panneerselvam
Edappadi K Palaniswami
MK Stalin
Only MGR and Jayalalithaa — the two ADMK CMs — have managed to win back-to-back terms in TN

Thalapathy Is Chennai's New Super King

How Joseph beat Stalin: Five factors that spelt doom for DMK this time

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The big shock was his party's defeat; the bigger shock, his own drubbing in Kolathur in north Chennai, which is considered part of the DMK heartland. For M K Stalin, the 'Vijay effect' is arguably the most unsettling political moment of his career.

DMK had banked on Stalin's governance record in terms of industrial growth and expansive welfare schemes. Five factors, however, seem to have upended these expectations: superstar C Joseph Vijay's disruptive entry, which galvanised voters desiring change from the revolving-door presence of the two Dravidian majors at the helm; an underestimation of anti-incumbency due to factors such as the rise in crimes against women; the debate over federalism and the Centre vs TN pitch that took Stalin's focus off local issues; the CM's reluctance to acknowledge Vijay as a serious contender; and, finally, the persistent opposition charge of dynastic politics following the anointing of Stalin's son as deputy CM.

That most exit polls projected a comfortable victory for DMK made the results more shocking for the party.

BALCONY SEAT: Vijay at his father's residence in Chennai on Monday

Poor ground-level coordination among allies appears to have hurt the DMK-headed alliance's prospects. Sections within Congress demanded power-sharing even before seat-sharing talks, with one section pushing for an alliance with TVK and Rahul Gandhi not campaigning with Stalin, which signalled ruptures within.

In retrospect, having a 21-party alliance did not help stitch up votebanks either. Dalit neta Thol Thirumavalavan had to admit — even before the counting — that his VCK cadres did not work hard enough for the alliance. Despite getting to contest 10 seats, even DMDK, founded by late actor Vijaykant, doesn't seem to have pulled its weight on the ground. The Left parties, which have few pockets of influence, had limited utility.

Widely regarded as a hard-working chief minister, Stalin had built a reputation for administrative focus and workforce discipline. His govt established a dynamic structure and a bureaucratic hierarchy aimed at accelerating development. Ambitious goals, including transforming Tamil Nadu into a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2030, and generating large-scale employment for the youth, formed the core of his agenda.

On the welfare front, govt offered free bus travel for women, plus Rs 1,000 monthly doles for women heads of families. On Stalin's bragging list was the school breakfast scheme. Yet, voters desired change. Young voters (2.5 crore of the state's electorate are below the age of 40) seem to have preferred the debutante over the tried and tested ones. This shift should make DMK introspect and correct course to retain young cadres and energise middle and senior leadership while rebuilding the party's support base.

Stalin tasted defeat in his first assembly poll in 1984 when he lost the Thousand Lights seat to AIADMK's K A Krishnaswamy by 2,292 votes and again in 1991 to the same opponent by a much larger margin. But this defeat carries far greater weight. It is not merely a personal setback but a moment that could redefine the trajectory of both DMK and TVK. This election may be a turning point not just for Stalin but for TN politics as well — one that redefines leadership and electoral tactics.

3 Fights Off Camera

- Sept 27, 2025 stampede at Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam rally in Karur resulted in 41 deaths and left numerous injured. Following an SC order, CBI is probing the incident, focusing on organizer negligence, crowd size, and security failures. Vijay has been questioned twice
- Release of Vijay's 'Jana Nayagan' was stalled after a dispute with Censor Board, which cited strong political theme that could influence voters before the 2026 polls. Producers KVN Productions filed a case with Madras high court. Board has kept release pending further review

- Vijay's wife **Sangeetha Sornalingam**, a Sri Lankan native, filed for divorce in Feb 2026, seeking to dissolve their 27-year marriage on grounds of adultery and mental cruelty. Court has ordered both parties to appear on June 15, 2026. Her petition claimed he was in an affair with an actress. There are reports of negotiations for a settlement involving family assets and future responsibilities for their children, Jason Sanjay and Divya Shasha

A star is born in TN politics: Quiet, introverted, persistent

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Chennai: Long before the towering cut-outs came into play, Vijay was a quiet presence. An introvert, far removed from the archetype of a fiery public speaker, his journey has been defined less by flair and more by persistence.

Academics held little interest for him. Backed by his father, filmmaker S A Chandrasekhar, Vijay grew up around film sets, appearing as a child artist in family productions through the 1980s. It was an early immersion into an industry that can be as unforgiving as it is glamorous.

His debut as a leading man in 'Naalaiya Theerpu' (1992) was low-key. In a field crowded with striking personalities like Ajith Kumar and Vikram, Vijay struggled to stand out. Setbacks were frequent, success seemed distant.

A breakthrough came with 'Senthoorapandi' (1993) alongside Vijayakant, which helped him gain visibility. But it still took years for Vijay to find his footing. Director Vikraman's 'Poove Unakkaga' (1996) marked a turning point, establishing him as a relatable lead.

That success was cemented with 'Kadhalukku Mariyadhai' (2000). From then, his rise was steady. His collaborators often point to his resilience. Director K S Ravikumar, who worked on 'Minsara Kanna', (1999), says failure never seemed to weigh him down. It is a quality that now informs conversations about his next act — politics.

Actor Rahman, who delivered back-to-back hits with S A Chandrasekhar, says, "When I was shooting for 'Nilava Malare', Vijay would often be present on the sets — quiet, observant, and introverted."

His political inclinations surfaced more recently. A meeting with Rahul Gandhi in 2010 hinted at early curiosity, though it did not translate into any immediate activity. His confrontation with former CM J Jayalalithaa over the release of 'Thalaivaa' (2013) revealed the complexities of navigating power in TN. The episode, marked by protests, a temporary ban, and eventual resolution, offered a glimpse into the intersection of cinema and politics in Tamil Nadu.

TN's political landscape, long defined by dominant parties and towering leaders, is still in transition. Political analyst R Kannan says Vijay represents a new kind of entrant whose support base cuts across traditional lines.

But converting popularity into a durable political structure is a challenge. Producer-actor Chithralakshmanan, who shared screen space with Vijay in 'Sukran', says, "He had the opportunity to align with leaders from various parties before the elections, but he chose not to give in to temptations or pressures. He was never interested in being a king-maker—he wanted to be the king himself."

ROMANCE, ACTION, DRAMA

- Born June 22, 1974
- Career spans more than three decades
- Starred in **68 films**, among highest-paid actors in India
- Fans popularly refer to him as **'Thalapathy'** (leader)
- A self-confessed admirer of Rajinikanth; says he inspired him to pursue a career in acting
- Child artist for 7 years after debut in Tamil film 'Vetri' (1984)
- Father directed him as a child actor in several films up to 1988
- Launched as a romantic hero in 1992 at 18
- Transition to action hero began in 2003
- Success of masala film **'Thirumalai' (2003)** changed on-screen persona
- Through the 2000s, he presented himself as the 'angry young man', an archetype made popular by Amitabh Bachchan in the 1970s

Tops & Flops

KARAIKUDI

Seeman (NTK) lost to **Prabhu T K** (TVK) by **70,565 votes**

The actor-turned-neta aims to emerge as the third pole in Tamil politics. His main plank is Tamil pride, and he's against freebies

CHEPAUK-TRIPLICANE

Udhayanidhi Stalin (DMK) defeated **Selvam D** (TVK) by **7,140 votes**

MK Stalin's son and deputy CM — a key campaign figure for DMK — was in the fray in this bastion the party's won since 2011

BODINAYAKANUR

O Panneerselvam (DMK) defeated **Prakash S** (TVK) by **6,805 votes**

The Jayalalithaa loyalist and former CM quit ADMK and joined hands with Stalin's DMK as he sought a second wind in state politics

MADURAI CENTRAL

Palanivel Thiagarajan (DMK) lost to **Madhar Badhurudeen** (TVK) by **19,128 votes**

The IT minister, who belongs to a political family, quit a corporate career to join DMK. He won this seat in 2016 and 2021

Amma's shoes just got bigger for EPS

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Chennai: AIADMK's string of defeats continues and Edappadi K Palaniswami's position as the party's 'undisputed' leader is under threat. ADMK's tally of 47 seats marks its poorest performance since 1996, with even its traditional support base in the state's western belt eroding. Vijay's promise of "economic protection and uncompromising security for women" has resonated more than ADMK's offer of a refrigerator and saree for Deepavali.

Since Jayalalithaa's passing, ADMK has struggled to maintain unity and direction. The scale of this loss may embolden V K Sasikala and her nephew, T T V Dhinakaran, to renew attempts to reclaim the party. Palaniswami had reconciled with Dhinakaran in the hope of consolidating the Mukkulathor caste vote in the south. But ADMK could win only five of the 58 seats in the region. Sasikala's outfit and repeated accusations of Palaniswami's 'betrayal' hurt ADMK in these strongholds too. After unsuccessful attempts to bring Vijay's TVK into its fold, ADMK eventually aligned with BJP, though they had parted ways a year ago.

WISH YOU WERE HERE

Palaniswami defended the tie-up, pointing to the DMK-BJP alliance during the Vajpayee era. But DMK and its allies framed the NDA as a "New Delhi Alliance", accusing the ADMK leadership of being subservient to BJP under the weight of corruption charges and acting as a conduit for the saffron party's entry in TN. It made ADMK and BJP cadres uncomfortable working together. Palaniswami's support for the Modi govt's delimitation bill also became politically awkward after the initiative was defeated in Parliament days before the poll. ADMK's position as one of the poles of TN politics is under threat. Newer forces are competing for the space.

3 from Lottery King's family to enter two assemblies

Trichy: All three family members of lottery baron Santiago Martin's family who made their debut representing different parties have won.

Martin's wife, **Leema Rose,** contesting on an ADMK ticket in Trichy's Lalgudi seat, won by 2,739 votes. Leema, with total declared assets of Rs 1,049 crore, was the richest candidate in TN.

In Chennai's Villivakkam, Martin's son-in-law, Aadhav Arjuna, (with assets of Rs 197 crore), a general secretary of Vijay's TVK, won by a margin of 17,302 votes.

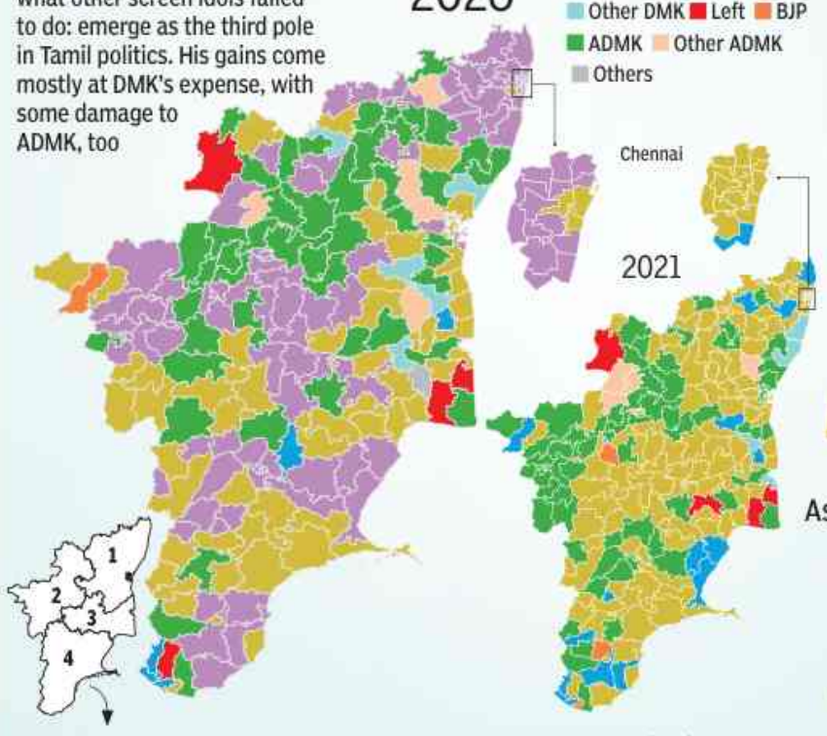
And in neighbouring Puducherry, Martin's elder son, Jose Charles Martin (with assets of Rs 610 crore), floated the Latchiya Jananayaka Katchi and allied with AINRC-BJP to win the Kamaraj Nagar seat by a margin of 10,205 votes.

Leema is the lone woman ADMK candidate to win in central TN. Though a stronghold of DMK, Leema maintained a steady lead in Lalgudi. The seat has sizeable Udayar voters, the community to which she belongs, and considerable Christian votes too. TNN

TAMIL NADU 234 SEATS

TVK REELS IN THE SPOILS

'Thalapathy' Vijay's TVK has done what other screen idols failed to do: emerge as the third pole in Tamil politics. His gains come mostly at DMK's expense, with some damage to ADMK, too



HOW THE REGIONS VOTED

Party	❶ North (84 seats) 2026	2021	❷ West (54 seats) 2026	2021
TVK	43 ▲	0	27 ▲	0
DMK	13 ▼	61	8 ▼	13
Cong	0 ▼	5	0 ▼	2
Other DMK	4 ▲	3	0	0
Left	0	0	1	1
ADMK	21 ▲	14	16 ▼	32
BJP	0	0	1 ▼	2
Other ADMK	3 ▲	1	1 ▼	4
Others	0	0	0	0

Party	❸ Central (36 seats) 2026	2021	❹ South (60 seats) 2026	2021
TVK	11 ▲	0	26 ▲	0
DMK	15 ▼	27	24 ▼	32
Cong	1 ▼	1	4 ▼	10
Other DMK	0 ▼	1	0	0
Left	2 ▼	3	1 ▲	0
ADMK	5 ▲	4	5 ▼	16
BJP	0	0	0 ▼	2
Other ADMK	1 ▲	0	0	0
Others	1 ▲	0	0	0

VOTE SHARE (%)

(Parties' vote shares have been rounded off)

VOTE'S WORTH (IN LAKH)

How many votes it took to win one seat

STRIKE RATE

Seats won as % of seats contested

45.9% TVK contested in 233 seats, its first fight after party formation

34.1% DMK fought 176 seats. In 2021, it had a 71% strike rate out of 188 contests

27.3% ADMK fought 172 seats. Its 2021 strike rate was 35% out of 191 seats

17.9% Cong fought 28 seats. In 2021, it fought 25 seats and had a 72% strike rate

ACTUAL VOTE SHARE OF WINNING PARTY IF YOU COUNT EVERY ELIGIBLE VOTER

Highest Margin 98,110	**E Palaniswami** of ADMK beat Premkumar (Ind) in Edappadi
Lowest Margin 30* *Leads till 12 midnight	**Periakaruppan** of DMK was leading S Sethupathy of TVK in Tiruppattur
Youngest MLA 28 Yrs	**Kamali S** of TVK. She beat L Murugan of BJP in Avanashi
Oldest MLA 79 Yrs	**Bhojarajan M** of BJP. He beat Ibrahim R of TVK in Udhagamandalam
Richest MLA ₹5,863Cr	**Leema Rose Martin.** She won Lalgudi on an ADMK ticket

Source: ECI, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) | MyNeta.info

DMK AND ADMK RELEGATED TO SIDELINES, TN WAKES UP TO VIJAY SARKAR

Some Stalin allies may back actor's bid to form govt

▶From P1

BA Raju

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami would be averse to the idea of playing second fiddle to Vijay, reducing the possibility of an alliance between the two parties.

However, Congress is likely to lend support. Rahul posted on X that he had spoken to Vijay and congratulated him. "This mandate reflects the rising voice of youth which cannot, and will not, be ignored," he said. TVK may reach out to Congress, Left and VCK by promising cabinet berths to give TN its first coalition govt.

Tamil Nadu last saw a hung assembly in 2006, when DMK won 92 seats and Karunanidhi formed a minority govt with outside support.

THE FALL OF STALIN-GAD: DMK cadres decode the verdict at party HQ in Chennai

The 2026 election has marked a few more firsts for the state. The most striking among them would be the vote share of TVK – 34.9 %, higher than any other party's debut score. DMK debuted in 1957 with 14% and bettered its performance in the next election with 27%. Making its entry in 1977, MGR's AIADMK contested 200 seats and won 130 with a vote share of 30%.

Dravidian fort tough to breach for nat'l parties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The poor showing by both national parties, Congress and BJP, in the TN polls underlines the hard realities of establishing a footprint in a state focused on regional identity and the legacy of the Dravidian movement.

Congress's reduced tally proves it is still not able to rebuild a mass base, six decades after losing power to DMK in 1967. The party contested 28 seats and won five compared to 2021, when it contested 25 and won 18. Across three previous assembly polls, its vote share fell from 9.3% to 6.42% and finally 4.27% in 2021. Yet Rahul Gandhi campaigned in only nine constituencies with the usual camaraderie between the DMK and Congress leadership notably absent. Now, some sections are looking at the possibility of joining hands with TVK, along with Left parties and VCK.

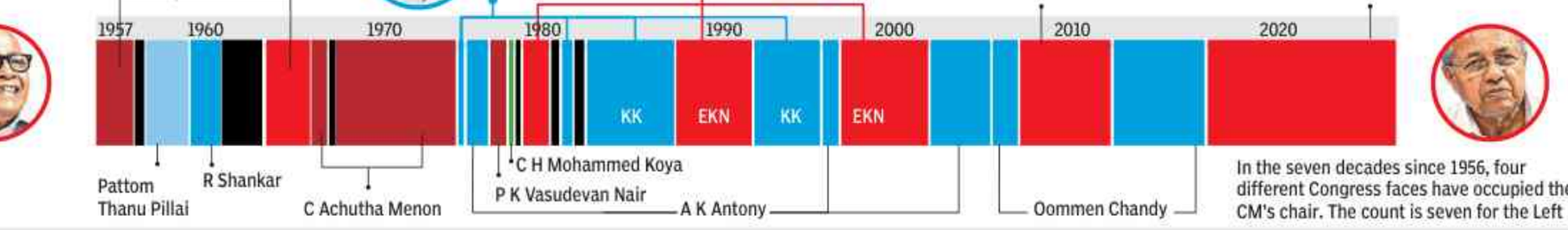
As for BJP, despite frequent visits by PM Modi and home minister Amit Shah since Jan, the party still has not found a formula to convert visibility and organisational effort into voter trust for a "double engine sarkar".

Opponents say the outcome, despite the improved vote share, is proof that TN continues to resist Hindutva-centred politics.

The national brass had taken a gamble. K Annamalai was replaced as the state chief; senior functionaries were in the dark about constituency decisions; and key calls were made in Delhi. At the state headquarters, the refrain has been poor seat allocation. Its lone win came in Udhagamandalam.

One Term Each: Kerala's Fixed Rotation Politics

After Kerala's formation in 1956, EMS Namboodiripad led what was till then only the second elected Left govt in the world (after San Marino). The state alternated between Left Democratic Front and United Democratic Front till 2021, when an incumbent was returned to office for the first time. K Karunakaran has been CM four times; A K Antony and E K Nayanar thrice each


Cong CPM CPI PSP IUML President's Rule
EMS Namboodiripad became CM again in 1967 after CPI split to form CPM
THE SHORTEST
1 month
K Karunakaran's first stint wasn't long, but he became CM three more times
E K Nayanar held the office for 10 years and 353 days, the longest so far
At 82, V S Achuthanandan was the oldest CM
THE LONGEST TERM
9 yrs 11 months 9 days
Pinarayi Vijayan (Since May 25, 2016) is the first CM to be re-elected after completing a full term in office
1957 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020
KK EKN KK EKN
Pattom Thanu Pillai
R Shankar
C Achutha Menon
C H Mohammed Koya
P K Vasudevan Nair
A K Antony
Oommen Chandy
In the seven decades since 1956, four different Congress faces have occupied the CM's chair. The count is seven for the Left

God's Own Country Red-Cards Comrades

Cong overcomes weak organisation with united front

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The Congress-led UDF swept back into govt in Kerala on Monday after a 10-year hiatus, riding a larger-than-expected anti-incumbency wave across the state against the Pinarayi Vijayan govt.

UDF won 102 seats in the 140-member legislative assembly. The magnitude of the victory surprised even the winners. The major factor that contributed to the crushing of the LDF is considered to be public anger directed at what has been described by rivals as Pinarayi Vijayan's "despotic" tendencies, especially LDF won the 2021 assembly election. At the same time, BJP achieved a breakthrough by winning three seats.

DECISIVE MANDATE

UDF displayed a clear edge over LDF in the 2025 local body elections, and this fanned hope in its cadres. Yet, LDF was able to build a narrative that created the impression that LDF and UDF were locked in a close contest. CPM tried to brand UDF as a den of extremist communal elements and pointed to Jamat-e-Islami and SDPI support of UDF as proof. By doing this, Vijayan cosied up to majority community organisations leaders with an eye on the Hindu majority vote. But UDF's resounding victory across regions rendered narratives around minority appeasement almost dead stock. Attempts to influence the Nair and Ezhava communities by placating the NSS and SNDP leaderships again proved futile. Congress, which has a very loose, and weak, organisational structure in Kerala, still won 63 seats, which means public support swayed in its favour across castes and communities. Congress had just 21 MLAs in the outgoing assembly.

CPM was also humiliated by the victories of three former party functionaries — V Kunhikrishnan won as a UDF-backed Independent in Payyannur in Kannur, a red citadel; T K Govindan defeated CPM state secretary M V Govindan's wife, P K Syamala, in Thaliparamba, Kannur; and former minister G Sudhakaran was victorious as a UDF-supported Independent in Ambalapuzha. Other than CPI and RJD, which won eight and one seat each, respectively, none of the other seven LDF coalition partners won a seat this time. Most of the ministers in Pinarayi Vijayan's cabinet also failed to be re-elected.

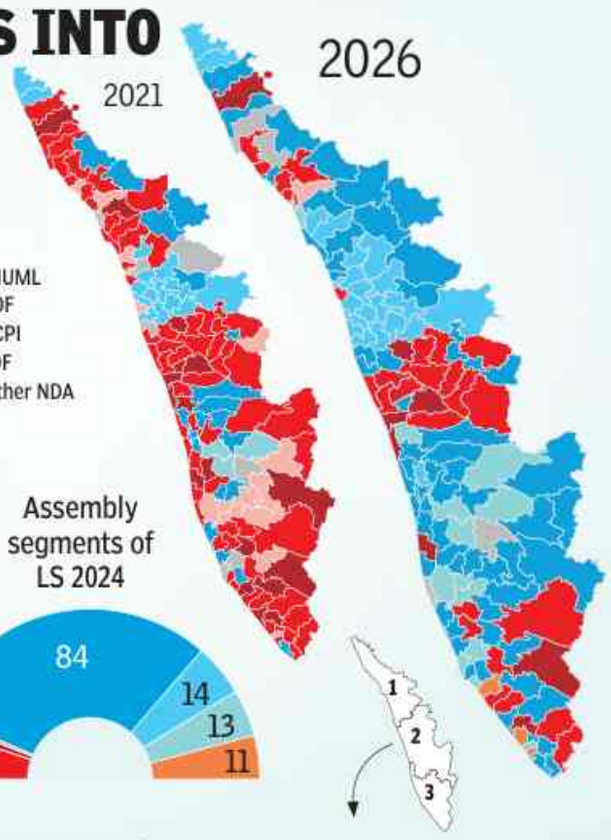
UDF's comeback was also made possible by several of its politicians. V D Satheesan led UDF from the front and even vowed he would go into political exile if UDF failed to win this election. He even said UDF would return to govt with 100 seats, his public remarks boosting morale within Congress' weak organisational machine. UDF, in fact, worked as a single bloc: Indian Union Muslim League has won 22 seats and Kerala Congress seven, and none of its allies have drawn a blank.

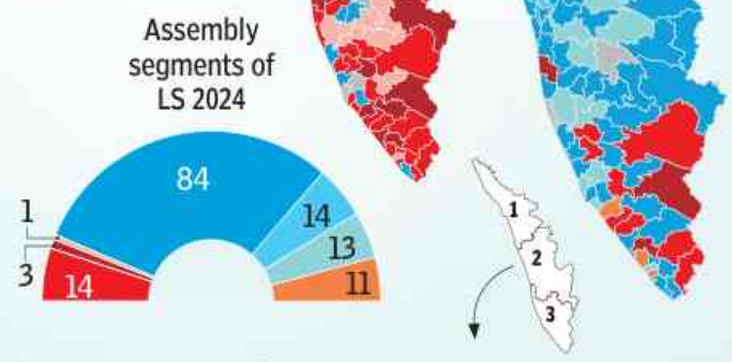
For BJP, Kerala 2026 was a much-awaited breakthrough. Party state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar wrested back Nemom from education minister V Sivankutty, former Union minister V Muraleedharan won Kazhakuttom after a tight fight with CPM veteran Kadakampally Surendran, and B B Gopakumar won a third seat for BJP in Chathanmur, in Kollam district. The saffron party's three victories means Chandrasekhar's strategy of stressing development over politics throughout the campaign worked.

KERALA 140 SEATS

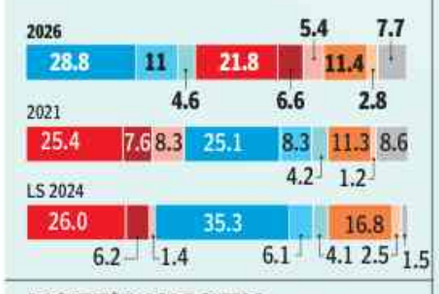
BLUE WAVE CRASHES INTO SOUTHERN COAST

CPM-led LDF's loss was gain for the UDF bandwagon helmed by Congress. BJP did not increase its vote share as such, but broke its 2021 duck



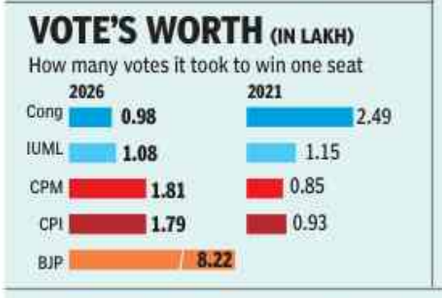


VOTE SHARE (%)



VOTE'S WORTH (IN LAKH)

How many votes it took to win one seat



STRIKE RATE

Seats won as % of total contested

68.5% for Cong, out of 92 seats. It fought 93 seats with a 23% win rate in 2021

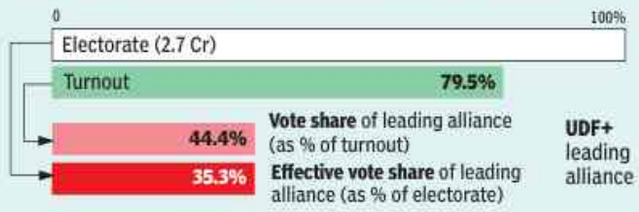
84.6% IUML's strike rate out of 26 seats. It was 19% out of 16 seats last time

33.8% for CPM, out of 77 seats. Its 2021 strike rate was 83% (75 contested)

33.3% CPI fought 24 seats. Its 2021 strike rate (23 seats fought) was 74%

3.0% was BJP's strike rate from 98 seats. In 2021, it contested 115 seats, with no wins

ACTUAL VOTE SHARE OF ALLIANCE IF YOU COUNT EVERY ELIGIBLE VOTER


0
100%
Electorate (2.7 Cr)
Turnout 79.5%
44.4% Vote share of leading alliance (as % of turnout)
35.3% Effective vote share of leading alliance (as % of electorate)
UDF+ leading alliance

HOW THE REGIONS VOTED

Party	❶ Malabar 48 seats		❷ Central 50 seats		❸ South 42 seats	
	2026	2021	2026	2021	2026	2021
Cong	17 ▲	5	26 ▲	12	20 ▲	4
IUML	20 ▲	14	2 ▲	1	0	0
Other UDF	1 ▲	0	5 ▲	3	7 ▲	0
CPM	6 ▼	18	12 ▼	23	8 ▼	21
CPI	1 ▼	2	4 ▼	8	3 ▼	7
Other LDF	1 ▼	5	0 ▼	2	0 ▼	8
BJP	0	0	0	0	3 ▲	0
Others	2 ▼	4	1	1	1 ▼	2

Highest Margin
85,327
K Kunhalikutty, IUML, won Malappuram, against KT Mujeeb Rahman of NCP

Lowest Margin
126
C Ravindranath, CPM, edged past Cong's TN Prathapan in Manalur

Youngest MLA
30 Yrs
V T Suraj of Congress. He won Balusseri seat, defeating CPM's Sachindev

Oldest MLA
82 Yrs
Pinarayi Vijayan, outgoing CM, retained his Dharmadam seat

Richest MLA
₹219Cr
Reji Cheriyan of Kerala Congress, who won Kuttanad constituency

Source: ECI, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) | MyNeta.info

Brand Pinarayi's centralised model past its expiry date

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Thiruvananthapuram: The assembly election emerged as a critical stress test for chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the durability of what was once a highly centralised leadership model often described as 'Brand Pinarayi'.

The electoral signals suggest that this model—built on administrative authority, political control, and a presidential-style campaign approach—is now facing visible strain under governance fatigue and shifting voter expectations.

Despite an extensive, leader-centric outreach strategy—spanning mass advertising, media engagement, and digital mobilisation— the CPM has struggled to convert visibility into voter endorsement. This indicates that personality-driven campaigns may be losing effectiveness in a state known for politically aware, issue-based voting.

The most symbolic indication of this shift has come from Dharmadam, Vijayan's home constituency. A reduced margin—or vulnerability—compared to 2021 signals more than a localised contest. Being seriously challenged by a relatively young Congress candidate points to erosion of entrenched political capital and a generational shift in voter alignment.

This is reinforced by trends in Pinarayi panchayat, his home turf, where trailing at key stages reflects unease within what was once a secure base.

Importantly, the contest appears to be shifting from anti-incumbency against the CPM to a more personalised "anti-leadership" sentiment directed at Vijayan. When dissatisfaction crystallises around a single leader, it can accelerate electoral decline.

Rebel-backed victories in constituencies like Payyannur and Thaliparamba—long considered CPM bastions—signal cracks within the party's organisational coherence. These outcomes are not merely electoral setbacks but indicators of internal dissent and reduced command over cadre discipline. In tightly structured parties like the CPM, such breaches often reflect deeper tensions over leadership style, candidate selection, and decision-making centralisation.

At the macro level, the CPM's broader performance reinforces systemic weakening, with inability to secure leads across many seats and pronounced decline in the Malabar region.

TEST AT HOME: The most symbolic indication of this shift has come from Dharmadam, Vijayan's home constituency

Another dimension is the performance of the council of ministers, with 13 losing, indicating broad-based electoral stress.

Taken together, these developments suggest that the 2026 election could mark a decisive inflection point. The challenges confronting Pinarayi Vijayan are no longer limited to opposition pressure but extend to internal cohesion, leadership perception, and voter trust. What is unfolding is not merely a cyclical electoral setback but a deeper political churn that questions the sustainability of a leadership-centric model in Kerala's complex and politically engaged landscape.

Tops & Flops

PERAVOOR 👎
K Shailaja (CPM) lost to **Sunny Joseph** (Cong) by **14,453 votes**

The former health minister was moved out of her turf to be pitted against the state Congress chief

PUTHUPPALLY 👍
Chandy Oommen (Cong) defeated **K M Radhakrishnan** (CPM) by **52,907 votes**

The son of former CM Oommen Chandy was fighting to retain the seat his father had represented for over 50 years

THRITHALA 👎
M B Rajesh (CPM) lost to **V T Balram** (Cong) by **8,385 votes**

The LDF minister is a one-time speaker of Kerala assembly and also had a 10-year stint as the MP for Palakkad Lok Sabha seat

AMBALAPPUZHA 👍
G Sudhakaran (Ind) defeated **H Salam** (CPM) by **27,935 votes**

The CPM veteran quit his party and fought as an Independent. UDF did not put up a candidate against him

KALAMASSERY 👎
P Rajeeve (CPM) lost to **V E Abdul Gafoor** (IUML) by **16,312 votes**

The senior state minister has served as an RS MP. He started as an SFI neta and is a member of CPM's central committee

0 to 3: BJP rides on development road

BS.Anil Kumar
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Thiruvananthapuram: BJP made a historic stride by winning three seats and the party was quick to say it was symbolic as it had won the same number of seats in West Bengal in 2016. The victory could be seen as a stamp of approval to state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar's strategy to focus more on development and less on politics.

When the former Union minister took over the reins of the party in Kerala, Chandrasekhar was clear that he would stay away from saffron politics that wins BJP votes elsewhere in the country. It seems to have paid off, as it helped the party increase its connect with urban voters in Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam that were grossly neglected by successive govts.

Chandrasekhar won the Nemom seat by defeating incumbent V Sivankuttywho had wrested the seat from BJP in the 2021 election.

All the three constituencies — Nemom and Kazhakuttom in Thiruvananthapuram district and Chathannur in Kollam — are urban constituencies.

SAFFRON TINGE: BJP stayed away from rabble-rousing campaign

The victory in the three constituencies where BJP had finished second in several previous elections proved that groundwork, not rabble-rousing campaigns can win them seats. If the election campaign of several BJP candidates were replete with saffron colour and Sangh Parivar symbols in the 2021 polls, they hardly resorted to such shows and it was almost absent in Nemom, Kazhakuttom and Chathannur.

This poll also brightened the hopes of BJP in Kozhikode north and south seats, where the party candidates scored close to 40,000 votes for the first time. BJP had won 13 seats in Kozhikode corporation for the first time.

Minorities help turn the tide as they consolidate behind UDF

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Kozhikode: Near-en bloc consolidation of Muslim and Christian votes along with widespread anti-incumbency sentiments emerged as a decisive force behind UDF's victory, reshaping Kerala's political landscape and delivering a crippling setback to LDF.

The verdict marks a dramatic return of minority communities — long the social backbone of the UDF since its formation in the 1970s — firmly into its fold, reversing the gains LDF had made among these groups in 2021.

The scale of the shift was most visible in the Malabar region. Of the 44 constituencies where Muslims constitute roughly 25–30% or more of the population, UDF won 38 seats.

In central and southern Kerala, too, the trend held: UDF secured eight out of 10 constituencies where Muslim voters wield significant influence. With Muslims accounting for about 27% of Kerala's population as per the 2011 Census — and now estimated at nearly 30% — the consolidation proved electorally decisive.

There has been a deep-seated disenchantment within the Muslim community, which increasingly views the CPM as having recalibrated its political compass towards majority appeasement and accommodation of majoritarian policy positions.

With big win, Cong opens up race for CMship

Rajiv.G@timesofindia.com

Thiruvananthapuram: The Congress in Kerala is entering a crucial phase following the United Democratic Front's (UDF) sweeping victory in the Assembly elections, with the party now tasked with choosing its chief ministerial candidate amid competing claims from senior functionaries.

The tussle surfaced even before results, with senior Congress figures openly debating the chief minister's post after polling, confident of a UDF return. The situation intensified enough for the AICC to step in to contain infighting. Three contenders—K. C. Venugopal, Ramesh Chennithala, and V. D. Satheesan—have emerged as frontrunners.

Satheesan has gained momentum following the emphatic win, having predicted a 100-seat sweep and defeats of several LDF ministers—claims that largely materialised. Party insiders credit his leadership, campaign strategy, and grassroots mobilisation, with several UDF allies backing him.

Party insiders credit Satheesan's leadership, campaign strategy, and candidate selection for the UDF's decisive win. His ability to mobilise grassroots workers and secure strong backing from coalition partners has further strengthened his position. Several UDF constituents have already indicated their support for him as the natural choice for CM.

Chennithala remains a strong contender, citing his long tenure as leader of opposition from 2016 to 2021 and his active role during the campaign. At the same time, Venugopal, a senior AICC functionary, continues to command support from a section of leaders within the state unit.

With the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting expected soon, the focus is on whether the party reaches consensus or faces a divided mandate, with AICC likely to play a key role again.

NUMBERS GAME: Satheesan's 100-seat forecast and results back his leadership pitch

Rangasamy's charisma delivers fifth term

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Puducherry: A fragmented opposition, All India NR Congress (AINRC) founder and chief minister N Rangasamy's charisma and his govt's freebies ensured NDA retained office in Puducherry.

PUDUCHERRY

Opposition parties failed to present a unified front against the AINRC-BJP-AIADMK-LJK combine. Congress fielded candidates in five constituencies allotted to DMK, causing confusion among functionaries, cadres and voters.

NDA won 18 seats (AINRC-12, BJP-4, AIADMK-1, LJK-1), crossing the 16-seat majority mark in the 30-member House. The INDIA bloc won six (DMK-5, Congress-1), while Independents secured three. Rangasamy, who won both the seats he contested, is set to become CM for a record fifth time. "The victory is because of Rangasamy's 'Makkal mudalvar' (people's chief minister) appeal. He is easily accessible, and has an image of a down-to-earth person. His victory in Thattanchavady with an increased margin of 4,441 votes underscores his personal popularity," said political commentator K Murugan. Welfare schemes and freebies — Rs 2,500 monthly aid to women heads, free grain, and enhanced deposits under the Girl Child Protection Scheme — also contributed.

The INDIA bloc's internal friction, disoriented campaign and seat-sharing confusion blunted anti-incumbency; focus now shifts to cabinet formation, with BJP likely to seek a deputy CM post.

NDA BACK, INDIA SLIPS

Parties	SEATS		VOTE SHARE (%)	
	2026	2021	2026	2021
AINRC	12	10	23.1	25.9
BJP	4	6	12.2	13.7
ADMK	1	0	1.1	4.1
Cong	1	2	17.5	17.5
DMK	5	6	13.7	13.7
TVK	2	0	16.7	16.7
Others	5	6	15.7	22.1

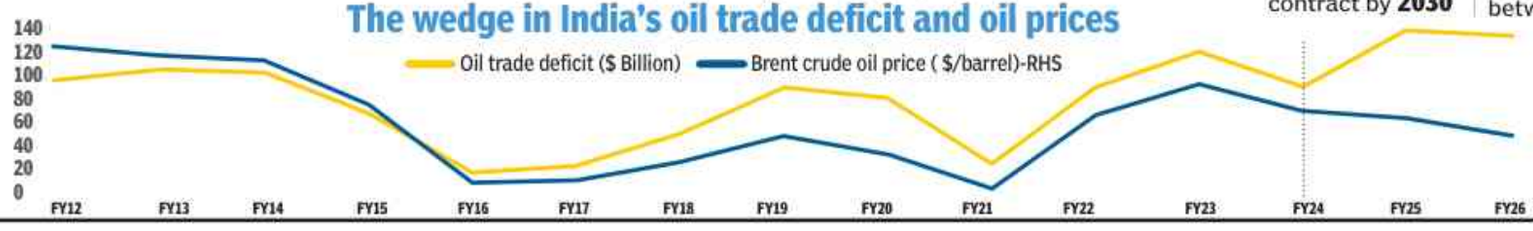
TOP GEAR: Puducherry N Rangasamy (file pic)

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026

Despite falling crude oil prices since fiscal 2024 (except for the current spike due to the West Asia conflict), India's oil trade deficit has increased in the past two fiscals. This divergence is mainly because growth in oil imports has outpaced that of oil exports, a change from the pre-Covid trend (wherein they moved in sync)

The wedge in India's oil trade deficit and oil prices



LOOKING AHEAD

- Trends say, global oil demand will plateau by **2029** and contract by **2030**
- In contrast, India's oil demand is projected to rise by **1 million** barrels a day between **2024** & **2030**

Source: Ministry of Commerce, India, World Bank, Crisil

Jain handed most of predecessor Sankar's portfolios

Mumbai: Following the retirement of T Rabi Sankar and the appointment of Rohit Jain on May 4, RBI saw a reshuffle of its deputy governor portfolios. Jain assumed the majority of his predecessor's responsibilities, including corporate strategy & budget, external investments & operations, IT, fintech, financial markets regulation, foreign exchange, internal debt management, rajbhasha, and risk monitoring. He took over dept of govt & bank accounts too. TNN

Beware of fake waivers, RBI tells borrowers

Mumbai: RBI has flagged misleading loan-waiver campaigns, reiterating a 2023 warning, as these persist across channels, distorting the credit system. The playbook involves waiver promises, fake 'debt-waiver certificates', and fee grabs under service/legal pretexts. RBI said these claims are false and liable for action, and that they pose risks to institutional stability. TNN

Regulators' worries keep banks, insurers off comex: Sebi chief

'Physical Delivery Of Commodities Needs GST Tweaks'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Sebi chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Monday said that the regulators for banking and insurance sectors were not willing to allow their regulated entities into commodities derivatives segment due to some concerns.

Pandey also said that for Sebi to regulate products that allow physical delivery of commodities like gold, tweaking of GST rules is needed, for which the regulator has approached GST council through finance ministry.

The Sebi chief also said that the govt is expected to come out with a 'one nation, one KYC' framework under CERSAI (Central Registry of Securitisation Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest of India) by July this year. Earlier, on April 25, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that Sebi should take the lead in putting in place such a system that will make life easier for customers within the financial services sector in India.

The top markets regulator was speaking at IMC's capital markets conference in the city.

Last year, Sebi had said that it was talking with pension sector regulator PFRDA to allow pension funds in the commodities derivatives segment. On Monday, Sebi chief said that the respective regulators for banks and insurance—RBI and Irdai—were "not very favourably inclined to allow banks and insurance companies to invest in commodity derivatives" because of certain concerns and "they have some valid rationale for it."

Pandey stated that the regulator wants the GST council to find a solution to the issue in physical delivery in commodity derivatives market, including for gold. He said that Sebi had proposed an IGST mechanism instead of the state GST.

"For delivery, the warehouse could be located in various places due to which they may have to take registration from all the states. It is really cumbersome," he said.

Earlier during his inaugural speech, the Sebi chief said the regulator would soon issue an advisory to market intermediaries on emerging risks from AI-led vulnerabilities. He said that Sebi wants intermediaries to be prepared for any such vulnerabilities.

Sebi Proposes IGST Mechanism

- RBI, Irdai not keen on banks, insurers entering commodity derivatives, Sebi chief Tuhin Kanta Pandey said
- GST hurdles are holding back physical delivery in commodities, including gold
- Sebi has proposed IGST route instead of state GST to ease multi-state warehouse issues related to commodity delivery
- One nation, one KYC under CERSAI likely to be rolled out by July

Net direct tax collection up 5% in FY26, misses target

New Delhi: Govt's net direct tax collections grew 5.1% to over Rs 23.4 lakh crore in 2025-26, but missed the revised target set for the fiscal year that ended March 2026.

In the revised estimates (RE) for the 2025-26 fiscal, govt lowered the direct tax collection target to Rs 24.2 lakh crore. The original budget estimate was set at Rs 25.20 lakh crore. Subdued direct tax collection in FY26 follows the income tax cuts that were announced in the 2025-26 Budget on Feb 1, 2025.

The net corporate tax mop-up in FY26 grew 11.4% to just under Rs 11 lakh crore. Non-corporate tax collection was flat at over Rs 11.8 lakh crore. The securities transaction tax (STT) collection was up 7.9% at Rs 57,522 crore, according to the data released by CBDT.

Refund issuance dipped 1.1% year-on-year to just over Rs 4.7 lakh crore in 2025-26.

Gross direct tax collection during the recently concluded fiscal stood at about Rs 28.1 lakh crore, up 4% from the 2024-25 fiscal. AGENCIES

Mfg PMI revives on new orders

New Delhi: After hitting a near four-year low in March, growth in India's manufacturing sector recovered in April as new orders, including exports and employment grew moderately, showing underlying resilience of the sector in the backdrop of conflict in the West Asia. The headline HSBC purchasing managers index (PMI) figure released Monday stood at 54.7 in April from 53.9 in March. TNN

Rupee falls 18p, closes at record low of 95.09 vs $

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The rupee closed at a record low of 95.09 against the US dollar on Monday, falling 18 paise from the previous close, as strong dollar demand from corporates and rising crude oil prices weighed on sentiment.

Other oil-sensitive Asian currencies also weakened against the dollar, with crude oil prices rising to $110 per barrel, adding strain on oil-importing economies.

According to a Reuters report, authorities are exploring measures to attract dollar inflows and strengthen foreign exchange reserves amid pressure from higher oil prices. Proposed steps include incentivising foreign currency deposits and easing tax conditions for overseas bond investors.

During the session, the currency opened stronger in the interbank market but weakened through the day, influenced by importer hedging, maturing contracts, modest portfolio inflows, and domestic political developments.

Global factors continued to dominate currency markets as the US dollar strengthened amid risk aversion linked to geopolitical tensions. The dollar index edged higher as ongoing conflict in West Asia and uncertainty around key shipping routes kept financial markets cautious. Reports of military activity in strategic waterways added to volatility.

Persistent foreign capital outflows have also weighed on the currency, with net selling of about $20 billion in both equities and bonds during 2026.

In global currency markets, the euro and pound weakened slightly against the dollar, while the yen showed volatility amid expectations of possible intervention. Policy tightening expectations in Australia weighed modestly on its currency.

Domestic equities, however, ended higher, with benchmark indices posting moderate gains on improved sentiment over BJP's victory in state elections. In forex markets, geopolitical factors had a more dominant impact than political developments.

Sensex up 356pts as FPIs turn buyers

Mumbai: Sensex closed 356 points up at 77,269 points on Monday as foreign funds turned net buyers after several sessions of strong selling. Market players said state poll verdicts that were favourable to BJP, and relatively better quarterly earnings by India Inc boosted investor sentiment amid volatile trade. The day's buying discounted rising crude prices with Brent at over $113/barrel and the rupee's weakness, they said. During the session, foreign funds were net buyers at Rs 2,836 crore while domestic funds were net buyers at Rs 4,746 crore, BSE data showed. The day's rise added nearly Rs 4 lakh crore to investors' wealth with BSE's market cap now at Rs 467.2 lakh crore. TNN

Trusts file caveats in HC & with charity commissioner

▶ From P 1

Tata Education and Development Trust (TEDT) will be the second Tata institution from which Venu Srinivasan departs in quick succession. In April, he exited the Bai Hirabai Trust following a complaint by Mehli Mistry to the Maharashtra charity commissioner alleging that the deed, which stipulates that trustees must be practising Zoroastrians, was being violated. Vijay Singh, who is also a trustee of that body, did not resign.

Following Monday's changes, TEDT will be left with three trustees — Noel and Mehli remain as permanent appointments while Jehangir, who holds a fixed term, continues until it expires next year.

Separately, the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) and Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) filed caveats in the Bombay high court and with the charity commissioner on Monday, days before scheduled board meetings on Friday, seeking to ensure no ruling is given against them without first hearing their case.

Friday's meetings are expected to centre on the future of Srinivasan on the Tata Sons board amid deepening tensions with Noel over whether to pursue a public listing of the holding company.

TEDT will be left with three trustees — Noel and Mehli remain permanent appointees while Jehangir continues until his term expires next year

The caveats come amid a separate legal challenge to the trusts' governance. Katyayani Agrawal, an advocate at SV & Co, had filed a complaint with the commissioner alleging that the current SRTT board composition breaches a 2025 amendment to the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act; she has called for an inquiry.

SRTT, however, maintains it is legally compliant, arguing that the amendment operates prospectively, as is standard unless a statute explicitly states otherwise.

Meanwhile, InGovern Research has called on independent directors of seven listed Tata companies to press for a public listing of Tata Sons, warning that the boards risk failing in their fiduciary duty to minority shareholders. The listed entities collectively hold 12% in Tata Sons, carried at historical cost for over three decades. InGovern has urged periodic revaluations to reflect fair market value. The corporate advisory firm has argued that the rationale for retaining these cross-holdings has long rested on a pledge from the late Ratan Tata's tenure.

In 1995, amid scrutiny over brand-fee arrangements and capital flows, the Tata Sons leadership signalled that investing group capital in the holding company was a long-term bet promising "tremendous appreciation" once listed. "For more than thirty years, this vision of an eventual IPO has been the standard defence whenever the topic of liquidity or holding company discounts arose," InGovern said. "Yet, as of May 2026, that promise remains unfulfilled."

TIMES GLOBAL

US President's Project Freedom meets Iran's residual firepower

US Initiates Hormuz Escort; Iran Fires Missiles At UAE, 1st Attack Since Truce

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The United States and Iran are on the verge of resuming their shooting match in the Gulf after Tehran attacked UAE with drones and missiles in response to US efforts to militarily escort scores of ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz under what it called "Project Freedom".

In a high-stakes gamble that blends humanitarian rhetoric with hard power signalling, US President Donald Trump on Monday initiated a Washington-led move to escort commercial vessels out of the volatile waterway under protective US cover. But the power move was met with residual Iranian firepower as Tehran attacked UAE's Fujairah province, forcing it to take defensive measures against incoming missiles and drones.

The US, for its part, claimed two merchant ships had transited through the strait, but Iran rejected the assertion, claiming it was in full control of the strait. The tit-for-tat announcements come amid a grinding two-month conflict in the Gulf that has choked one of the world's most critical oil arteries.

The contest for control of the Strait of Hormuz has now crystallised into a stark reality: the US clearly commands superior military power, but Iran appears to be dictating the terms of engagement.

Earlier, framing the operation as a humanitarian intervention, Trump said neutral countries had appealed to Washington to help free ships "locked up" in the strait, many running low on food and essential supplies. The US, he said, would "guide their ships safely out of these restricted waterways", warning that any interference "will... have to be dealt with forcefully". The operation, which began Monday morning Middle East time, was pitched as a goodwill gesture — including toward Iran — even as it carries unmistakable coercive undertones.

Ships pick Iran lane, for now

On the ground, Project Freedom got off to a hesitant start. Vessel traffic through the strait remained a trickle, with most ships opting to use an Iranian-controlled traffic separation scheme (shipping channel closer to Iran's shores) rather than a US-proposed corridor closer to Oman. Shipping executives said the plan lacks operational clarity and it is unclear whether it is sustainable, echoing industry concerns that without Iranian coordination, any large-scale transit risks reigniting hostilities.

Shippers not convinced

In strictly military terms, the US retains overwhelming superiority. The US Navy can project force across the Gulf with carrier strike groups, surveillance systems, and allied bases. But geography — and politics — complicate that advantage. Iran's proximity to the strait, combined with its arsenal of coastal missiles, drones, and fast-attack craft, gives it effective control over escalation dynamics. Even limited harassment can deter commercial shipping, as insurers raise premiums and companies refuse to risk multimillion-dollar vessels. Without a broader agreement — ideally involving Iran — insurers are unlikely to underwrite voyages through the strait.

Choppy waters for Trump

In the US itself, the crisis is colliding with kitchen-table economics. Gas prices across the country have surged to an average $4.5 a gallon, up from $2.9 before the conflict — a roughly 50% increase. Analysts warn prices could breach $5.

The spike is putting intense pressure on Trump, who has made energy affordability a central political message.

Some lawmakers are questioning if Project Freedom risks entangling the US in a broader conflict without congressional authorisation, while others contend the president has little choice but to act to stabilise global energy flows.

Trump, however, has struck a defiant tone, insisting that the operation is both necessary and limited. He has pointed to "very positive discussions" with Iran as evidence that diplomacy is still in play, even as he underscores the willingness to use force if required.

Getty Images

GERMAN MINESWEEPER SETS SAIL: German navy's minesweeper "Fulda" during its departure at Kiel, Germany, for a possible deployment in the Strait of Hormuz, on Monday. The German govt has said it is willing to participate in mine clearing efforts in the Strait, but only once Iran and the US have agreed on the cessation of hostilities

Trump ends visa freeze that worsened doc shortage

The Trump administration lifted a visa processing freeze for foreign physicians, ending a months-long halt that had sidelined thousands of doctors and exacerbated staffing shortages at hospitals across the country.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services said physician applications would resume normal processing toward a final decision, according to a statement from the agency.

Screening and vetting requirements would continue to exceed those of the prior administration, including expanded background checks, biometric screening and social media reviews, USCIS said.

The rollback is part of a broader reckoning over the administration's sweeping immigration crackdown. In Jan, the state department paused issuing immigrant visas for people from 75 countries, targeting foreigners the administration said could require public assistance — a move expected to hit family-based immigration hardest. BLOOMBERG

France rolls out one-euro meals for all varsity students

French university canteens began offering one-euro meals to all students regardless of income on Monday, in a measure designed to address financial hardship.

The move follows a push by student unions to extend the one-euro rate ($1.17) for a three-course meal to all students, down from the usual 3.30 euros. The price, which covers a starter, main course and dessert, was previously only available to those with low incomes or receiving financial aid. A survey by a student union found in Jan that 48% students have gone without food for financial reasons and 23% do so several times a month. AFP

Russia declares May 9 truce, threatens attack if Ukraine violates it

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday declared a two-day ceasefire in the conflict with Ukraine on May 8-9 to mark the anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War Two, Russia's defence ministry said. The ministry added that it counted on the Ukrainian side to follow suit and that Russia would launch a massive retaliatory missile strike on the centre of Kyiv if Ukraine attempted to disrupt the celebrations.

Citing that the May 9 World War II Victory Day parade in Moscow could be held without any military equipment, Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskiy** on Monday claimed that Russia is steadily weakening. "If that happens, it will be the first time in many, many years. They cannot afford military equipment — and they fear drones may buzz over Red Square," he posted on social media platform X.

His statements came on a day when it was reported that a drone hit a residential tower in an upscale Moscow district in a rare strike near the city centre ahead of the parade.

A Russian missile attack on the town of Merefa, in Kharkiv region, killed six people and injured more than 30 others, Ukrainian officials said on Monday. IANS, REUTERS

Hantavirus outbreak traps 150 on cruise ship; 3 dead

Geneva: Medics were working on Monday to evacuate two people with symptoms of the deadly hantavirus after a suspected outbreak on a luxury cruise ship off West Africa carrying mostly British, American and Spanish passengers.

Around 150 were still stuck on the vessel after three people — a Dutch couple and a German national — died, and others fell ill, including a Briton who left the vessel earlier and was being treated in South Africa.

Hantavirus, which can cause fatal respiratory illness, is spread when droppings and urine of rodents become airborne. The WHO said it does not transfer easily between humans.

Authorities in the island nation of Cape Verde said they had not allowed Dutch-flagged MV Hondius to dock as a precaution. The ship left Ushuaia in southern Argentina in March, on an Antarctic expedition, with berth prices ranging from 14,000 to 22,000 euros. REUTERS

French authority penalises Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk over anti-obesity ads

France's medicine safety agency ANSM said Monday it had imposed fines on pharmaceutical firms Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly over their advertising campaigns on obesity.

The agency fined on Novo Nordisk France $2.08 million — a million relating to advertisements promoting its Saxenda drug and the rest for Wegovy weight management medication for treating obesity.

The ANSM also fined Lilly France $1.27 million for a campaign promoting its anti-obesity drug Mounjaro, seeing the adverts as "likely to constitute indirect promotion of medicines subject to mandatory medical prescription." French laws prohibit any advertising to the general public of the treatments.

The national medicines regulator said that the fines aimed to "prevent any communication likely to promote the use of drug treatment as the principal response to obesity." AFP

Car ploughs into crowd in German city, 2 killed

Berlin: A car ploughed into a crowd on a street in Germany's eastern city of Leipzig Monday, killing at least two people and injuring several others, authorities said.

Germany has been shaken by a series of car-ramming attacks in recent years. In the latest incident in Leipzig, the driver was arrested after his vehicle careered from a main square down a major city centre street, close to historic sites. TV pictures showed a badly damaged white vehicle.

Leipzig mayor Burkhard Jung said: "We still don't really know the motive. We don't know anything about the perpetrator." REUTERS

DAILY PLANET

United jet hits pole, truck during landing

A United Airlines plane grazed a vehicle and light post on an adjacent highway in its final approach to Newark Liberty International Airport on Sunday, the latest in a string of incidents that have put the spotlight on aviation safety in the US. United Flight 169 from Venice, Italy, hit the pole on the New Jersey Turnpike around 2pm local time before touching down safely, the US Federal Aviation Administration said. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the incident.

3 dead in Colombia monster truck show crash

At least three people were killed and 38 injured at a Colombian monster truck show when a vehicle veered out of control during a stunt and ploughed into a group of spectators, local authorities said Monday. A young girl was among the dead at Sunday's exhibition in the southwestern city of Popayan, which was packed with families, local media reported. Images circulating on social media showed the truck performing a wheelie before swerving off the track and crashing into the crowd barriers.

3 Indians injured in Fujairah attack

Three Indians were injured on Monday after a fire broke out on the Fujairah Petroleum Industries Zone in the UAE following a drone strike, officials and reports said. In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in the UAE confirmed that three Indians sustained injuries in attacks in Fujairah.

"We are in touch with local authorities for ensuring adequate medical care and welfare of the affected Indian nationals," it added. PTI

Iran's Strait map shows UAE areas

Iran's Revolutionary Guards navy issued a new map of the area of the Strait of Hormuz under its control on Monday, state media said. The area starts in the west with a line between the westernmost tip of Iran's Qeshm island to the UAE's Umm al Quwain. In the east, the area stops at a line between Iran's Mount Mobarak and UAE's Emirate of Fujairah. It was not clear to what extent their claimed area of control has changed. REUTERS

Schools go back to online mode

The United Arab Emirates on Monday ordered all schools to return to remote learning for the rest of the week, the education ministry said, following a spate of attacks targeting the country. The UAE slammed the latest Iranian barrage, saying the attacks represent a "dangerous escalation and an unacceptable transgression." It added that the UAE "reserves its full and legitimate right to respond to these attacks". AP, AFP

US destroys Iran missiles, boats

The United States shot down multiple Iranian missiles and drones fired at US Navy and commercial vessels and destroyed six of Tehran's small boats, a top US admiral said on Monday. US Apache and Seahawk helicopters hit "six Iranian small boats threatening commercial shipping," Admiral Brad Cooper, the head of US Central Command said. US forces also "effectively engaged" all "missiles and drones". AFP

A thought for today

A politician thinks of the next election. A statesman, of the next generation

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE

END THIS FREE-DOM

Voters have punished govts that can't deliver. But how will govts deliver, if freebies wreck their finances?

Results are out, and they reveal a season of discontent. When three of four large states dislodge incumbents with firm mandates, something's broken on the ground, from east to south, and maybe elsewhere. BJP's eyed Bengal for years, but cultural and ideological barriers against it were always considered too high. Until they weren't. Tamil Nadu had been a two-party game of musical chairs for almost 60 years. Now a third player, a political greenhorn, has been ushered in with a landslide. Sans a vote, these changes would be considered revolutionary. But since we are a democracy, and the largest at that, all parties must introspect.

To give credit where it's due, BJP's sweep of Bengal is largely down to dogged determination. It takes more than astute salesmanship for an 'outsider' to become the alternative to 'Maa, Mati, Manush'. When it failed to get a majority on its own, in 2024 LS polls, many thought the party would lose some of its scrappiness. But it's gone on to win poll after assembly poll – Haryana, Maharashtra, Delhi, Bihar, and now Assam and Bengal – with vast margins.

TVK's rise in TN is puzzling at first. TN is one of India's fastest growing state economies – 10.8% in 2025-26. What reason did voters have to punish the incumbent? And why did they cast their lot with Vijay, an actor, and his two-year-old untested party? Stardom doesn't explain it, because Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan have tried and faltered at politics in recent years. What's carried Vijay aloft is his focus on youth, and real issues like jobs and education, rather than Dravidian identity politics. Even in Kerala, where the switch from LDF to UDF is less unexpected, these ground issues have shaped the mandate.

Which brings us back to the need for introspection across parties. Why are voters unhappy? Because their key aspiration – an environment in which they can improve their lot with better health, education and employment – isn't fulfilled. And states can't deliver it because their finances are compromised by a growing number of freebies. As Economic Survey points out, just the unconditional cash transfers to women now amount to ₹1.7L crore. And because such handouts are politically expedient, the number of states offering them has grown five-fold.

Every party in the latest election cycle promised monthly doles to women and unemployed youth, although that would leave little spare cash for development. Even Supreme Court flagged the growing 'freebie culture' in Feb. It isn't easy to stop, but if BJP, which now governs most of the large states, takes a firm stand against competitive populism, change is possible. It should bite the bullet.

Political change has come as landslide, via angry protests, in Bengal & Tamil Nadu. But what next?

BIG BONG THEORY

Shikha Mukerjee

Bengal, a habitual contrarian, has finally succumbed to the attractions of being one of the crowd of BJP-governed states in north India. Apart from Punjab, Himachal and Jharkhand, political geography has changed. Saffron's sweep now includes the east, northeast, north and west of India, while four southern states hold out – Kerala, TN, Karnataka and Telangana.

Change, when it happens in Bengal, is invariably a landslide, sweeping out the old, celebrating the new. Problem with such enthusiasm, as Mamata Banerjee has discovered, is short-lived. Like a new car out of the salesroom, depreciation sets in the moment victory is achieved, and the new regime takes over.

As Bengal's main opposition since 2021, BJP has worked indefatigably to develop the anti-incumbency narrative, putting Mamata on the defensive. She, in turn, looked for straws that could rescue her from excesses of her party's goons, who'd masquerade as 'leaders' in their abuse of power. Were elections held a year ago, it would not have been surprising if Trinamool had lost.

Anger, against her govt and her protection of corrupt and criminally implicated officialdom, spilled out over the rape-murder of a junior doctor on duty at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, in protests and demonstrations. The mismanagement and absence of accountability in hospitals rippled out in waves, directing public attention to other institutions, to the education sector, where Trinamool's actions have been a wrecking ball. Combined with the teacher recruitment cash-for-jobs scandal, discontent was directed against Mamata, not only by BJP, but by the Communists and Congress, too.

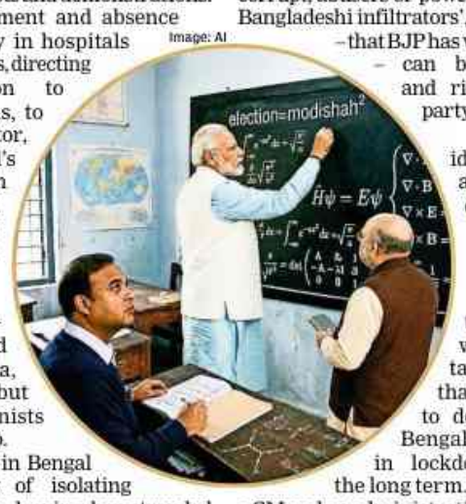


Image: AI

BJP's success in Bengal was its strategy of isolating Mamata Banerjee, leaving her stranded on a pedestal. Engrossed in using SIR to divert attention from the build-up of anti-incumbency discontent, she did not realise that the ground from under her feet was slipping away. BJP's success lay in invading south Bengal, the rust belt of industries gone bust, rural parts that lifted Mamata to the top in the Singur-Nandigram movement, and turning voters into disgruntled vote banks. While Mamata used SIR, that surgically excised 91L voters, including in seats where Trinamool banks on a consolidation of Muslim voters, BJP deployed a narrative of Mamata's 'relative deprivation' of Muslim voters, to manoeuvre itself into winning place.

BJP consolidated Hindu votes. Its assessment was clear-eyed that constituencies where Muslims were a majority were best ignored. This allowed it to concentrate its efforts on seats where headway was possible. Resurgence of the Communists and Congress only made room for BJP, to crowd out Trinamool.

Now that BJP has achieved what it has yearned for since 2016, it needs to figure out how to govern, in a state, difficult, but curiously patient about performance failures. Delivering on promises is not going to be easy, given the complicated priorities the party has set.

The double-engine sarkar model that ought to shovel loads of resources into Bengal's depleted and debt-burdened coffers, has its own problems, in a global crisis that's hurting India's economy, and shaving off growth expectations. Action with vengeance against the corrupt, abusers of power, against 'illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators', and deportation – that BJP has vowed as priority – can be destabilising, and risky, for a new party in a new state.

Issues of Bengali identity, pride and nationalist consciousness are not going away; the fight over how, and who, defines the Bengali, will have to be tackled by a BJP that has promised to deliver 'change'. Bengal cannot be kept in lockdown mode for the long term. The state needs a CM and an administration not borrowed from other states. From being constantly on the edge, Bengal needs BJP to deliver 'change' at instant delivery speed.

POLLS 2026
Bengal, TN, Assam, Kerala

CHENNAI'S SUPER KING

Vignesh Karthik KR

Vijay has been handed something Tamil Nadu has never given a debutant before: a 100-plus-seat mandate, and a likely shot at CM's chair. Voters have been more than kind. Question now is what he makes of it.

The quietest fact of this verdict is the obliteration of Naam Tamilar Katchi. NTK had spent more than a decade cultivating the Tamil protest vote; Seeman's coalition of grievance and ethnic pride that reliably produced close to a tenth of the state's vote, without ever converting it into seats. That constituency has been absorbed wholesale into TVK. A great many of TVK's voters were not new to dissent. They had already been protesting. They simply found a more effective vehicle.

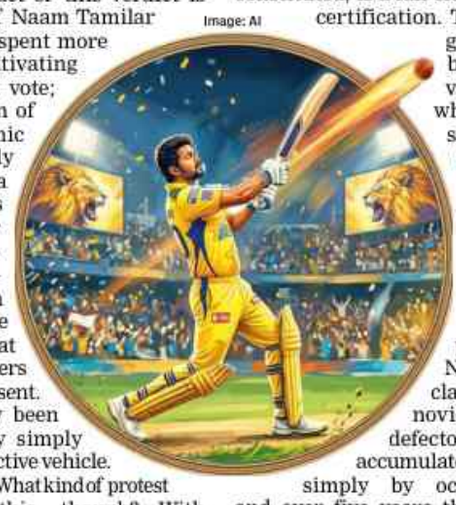


Image: AI

What kind of protest is this, though? With Vijay, the question of what is consciously held is vague. Voters know who they wanted; the 'what' is left disparate by design. This is not a programmatic protest. It is a protest against the requirement of having a programme.

The campaign tells us why this worked. Vijay ran an intimate campaign; the relationship between leader and supporter was unmediated. There was no party between them. Political mobilisation borrowed the effective infra of two decades of cinema fan clubs, and the absence of conventional politics was the feature, not the bug. This is a subversion of the politics of mobilisation that the Dravidian majors built, a model that required not only a mass leader, but the apparatus that mediated between leader and masses. Vijay has bypassed all of it.

It's tempting to say this insulation will not survive contact with govt. The Indian variant of strongman politics has, since the Tenth Schedule of 1985, and especially under Modi, refined a quiet division of labour: leader takes the credit, party absorbs the blame, and anti-defection law makes neither side able to renegotiate. The leader-brand stays clean precisely because the party-machine is allowed to stay dirty.

Vijay, in principle, possesses the structural grammar to operate this model. What he conspicuously does not have yet is what makes it function; a party developed enough to absorb blame productively. The Modi model presupposes a party. TVK, as currently constituted, is a fan club with electoral certification. The first task of governance is the building of the very apparatus whose absence has so far been Vijay's electoral asset.

Whatever one makes of TVK's substantive politics, this verdict has injected roughly a hundred new people into Tamil Nadu's political class, celebrities, novices along with defectors. They will accumulate political capital simply by occupying office, and over five years they will become politicians through adulation, rather than conviction. Whether that congeals into a real party, or evaporates the moment Vijay's personal magnetism flickers, is the question this verdict has not answered.

The historical analogy is MGR-Sivaji. In 1970s, Tamil Nadu chose MGR, the bigger star and the more capable politician, who had spent years inside DMK absorbing organisational discipline. Sivaji was the better artist, but the lesser politician. Vijay is the contemporary equivalent of Sivaji, and the electorate has done what 1970s Tamil Nadu refused to do: given the actor without the apparatus a working majority. In doing so, it has exposed the fault lines of DMK's failure to transmit ideology to the generation of voters who have now backed him.

With BJP at one seat, Vijay has room to construct a coalition that excludes it altogether; smaller NDA allies, a desperate ADMK, a Congress untethered from DMK. He can plausibly tell his base that he has kept both the ideological enemy and the political enemy out. Whether he wants to is a separate question. The operational challenge is more tractable than the political one; building a party where there is now only a fan club.

Opposition's Stale Mates... All Fall Down

Minus key satraps, INDIA bloc is all but done

Asim Ali

This round's poll results underline much more than BJP's durable structural dominance. They also signal implosion of an organised opposition to the BJP dominant party-system. Opposition has shrunk, without coherent strategy, or substantive leadership, to pose any meaningful challenge to BJP hegemony. At no point in Modi's second term, did the road to office in 2024, look as smooth as BJP's road to 2029 looks.

INDIA, when it formed in July 2023 in Patna, represented the coming together of a formidable political coalition. The alliance's glue, Congress, boasted a govt in almost every part of India (Rajasthan in west, Chhattisgarh in east, Himachal in north, Karnataka in south). State parties held the fort – in Bengal (TMC), Bihar (RJD), TN (DMK) and Delhi (AAP). Additionally, there was a buffer zone with Andhra's YSRCP and Odisha's BJD.

Congress's zone of power's now relegated to south India – Himachal, the lone exception. State govts that gave INDIA heft are all overthrown. NDA has taken over the buffer zone – AAP quit INDIA after its defeat, following JDU's and RLD's exits earlier.

Image: AI

Influential opposition veterans – Tejashwi, Kejriwal, Sharad Pawar, Stalin, Mamata – have been diminished by electoral defeats. Akhilesh Yadav is perhaps the only regional neta who enhanced his standing. Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi's elevated stature following 2024 LS expansion has been eroded by defeats to BJP in Haryana, Maharashtra and Assam – victory in Kerala is unlikely to offset these losses.

Opposition camp's leadership deficit and strategic incoherence are reinforced by Left's steady decline – that for long, was the bridge between Congress and regional parties. From UPA's formation in 2004, to INDIA in 2023, Left veterans like Surjeet and Yechury played outsized roles in bringing together Congress and regional parties basis a shared programme.

But now, with Left not in govt in any state for the first time since 1967, there is no such force to bridge the gulf between Congress and regional parties. Last year, Omar Abdullah, J&K CM, described INDIA as being "on life support". After this round, a large part of that life support has been taken out.

Unravelling of an organised opposition space will likely have three major implications for national politics.

- It'll deepen NDA's 'hegemonic effect' as representing the 'only game in town', allowing it to coast on a self-perpetuating momentum, even in the absence of widespread approval of its policies and performance.

In elections in UP, Punjab and Gujarat, BJP would likely employ its hegemonic position to arrange for the defection of opposition netas and draw in smaller parties to the NDA camp. It would also seek to employ its strengthened bargaining position to further divide opposition ranks and push through agendas in Parliament – such as on delimitation.

- State parties' reduced footprint will whet Congress's appetite to cannibalise. This portends a period of intense and escalating conflict within opposition ranks. In the first two Modi terms, state parties acted as principal bulwark against BJP at the state level, even as Congress steadily lost ground to BJP across the north and west. In Modi's third term, in contrast, the striking story has been the receding space of regional parties, particularly in eastern India. Congress will certainly try to make most of their waning strength – YSRCP in Andhra, BJD in Odisha, AAP in Delhi, TMC in Bengal, NCP in Maharashtra.

Friction and tactical mishmash is increasing between Congress and its state partners in Bihar and TN. By 2029, Congress is likely to find little scope for forging partnerships with state parties. In Punjab and Gujarat, it would be more inclined to decimate AAP's support base, rather than pursue an alliance.

- A depleted INDIA bloc would further complicate efforts to construct a broad-based national alternative to NDA. Defeats of TMC in Bengal, and Congress in Assam, show that a successful politics of opposition to BJP must go beyond narrow identity-centric narratives.

TMC's reliance on Bengali pride and Congress's, on a dominant-caste-led consolidation, proved inadequate. Opposition requires an alternative political imagination to Hindu nationalism.

This can be most effectively pursued by drawing on complementary strengths of diverse opposition parties. DMK and TMC, for instance, were crucial for articulating a narrative of federalism and state rights in the face of a centralising NDA in the spheres of fiscal policy, delimitation, education and language policy.

In the absence of a unified agenda and collaborative approach, NDA will find it easier to portray opposition as fragmented, thus sharpening its hegemonic effect via the TINA factor.

The Big Tent Of Indian Politics Is Now Hindutva

Ten ways BJP has mainstreamed its message & pulled in politicians of all stripes in different states

R Jagannathan

Yesterday's assembly election results are a shot in the arm for BJP. In West Bengal particularly, having thrown everything and the kitchen sink into the fight to oust Mamata Banerjee, it played high-stakes poker and won. A bonus: TVK's rise and ADMK's diminution in Tamil Nadu spell the potential decline of Dravidianism after nearly 59 years. Here are 10 key elements of the party's successful strategising.

- BJP has integrated its own ideology of mild Hindutva with broader nationalism, thus allowing ambitious politicians from non-RSS streams to join it. In Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal, the politicians leading it are all from other parties, of non-RSS origins. Its playbook tells us which states will be targeted next – Punjab, then Telangana. Tamil Nadu and Kerala will come much later.
- BJP has (so far) managed to juggle short-term political priorities and long-term growth goals fairly well. In Tamil Nadu, it sidelined Annamalai temporarily in order to gain from the anti-incumbency facing DMK, but it was never going to jettison him altogether. The Vijay factor has now cleared the field of hardcore Dravidian elements, making it easier for Annamalai to build the party without having to defend its Hindi-belt vulnerabilities.
- BJP has demonstrated once again its formidable election machinery. In West Bengal, in 2021, it slid badly from the highs of the 2019 Lok Sabha performance and, worse, proved unable to protect its own workers from Trinamool violence. This time, by stationing huge numbers of central forces in the state, it managed to help its supporters overcome the fear factor.
- BJP keeps learning from its mistakes. In 2021, targeting Mamata personally and use of *Jai Shri Ram* as the war cry didn't enthuse all traditional Bengalis, especially *bhadralok*. This time, they did not target her personally, and further tied her down by fielding their strongest candidate, Suvendu Adhikari, who defeated

Image: AI

her in 2021 in Nandigram, against her in Bhabanipur.

- West Bengal election puts the focus back on Amit Shah as the most important political personality after Modi. There is now little doubt that he is Modi's logical successor, though Yogi Adityanath is seen as a better Hindutva mascot. It is the Shah-Yogi combination, and its potential for dissonance, that will be discussed most as 2029 general elections approach.
- BJP's heady mix of mild Hindutva, centre-left positioning on welfare spending and social justice, and consistent focus on women's welfare makes it the broadest tent political party in India. Only thing missing from its repertoire is a direct appeal to minorities to come under its umbrella, though it made a half-hearted attempt in Kerala with the Christian community, without much success.
- In states where religious demography is changing adversely for Hindus – which means Assam, West Bengal and Kerala for starters – BJP will probably continue to move centre stage as the only party that can address their fears. Like Tripura, West Bengal will move to the core of its political strength, unless the party fails to be sufficiently inclusive about various smaller caste and tribal groups.
- Bengal, the scene of the original Sanyasi rebellions that began in the eighteenth century (and popularised by Bankim Chattopadhyay's novel *Anand Math*, where the nationalist song *Vande Mataram* first makes an appearance), is home to many Hindu icons like Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo. It is also the home state of founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Bengal has now come a full saffron circle.
- Minority-based secularism is on its last legs. In Assam, and now Bengal, minorityism is no longer a sure-fire formula for winning.
- What we cannot speculate on after BJP's West Bengal win is whether this will make the party's leaders consider bringing forward 2029 general elections, probably to coincide with the Uttar Pradesh assembly election next year.

Calvin & Hobbes

LOOK HOBBES, THIS IS MY RETIREMENT FUND.
A COMIC BOOK?
THIS IS THE ISSUE WHERE THEY INTRODUCE THE ARCH-VILLAIN "DEATHMEISTER"! IN A FEW YEARS, A RARE MINT COPY OF THIS WILL BE WORTH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS!
NEEDLESS TO SAY, I BOUGHT FIVE COPIES, SEALED THEM IN AIRTIGHT PLASTIC BAGS, AND PUT THEM IN A BOX IN THE CLOSET, WHERE THE LIGHT AND HUMIDITY WON'T AFFECT THEIR PRECIOUS PAGES!
HOW WILL THESE BE RARE AND VALUABLE IF EVERY KID IN AMERICA HAS FIVE COPIES?
WE'RE ALL COUNTING ON THE OTHER GUY'S MOM TO THROW THEM AWAY.

Sacred*space*

Love your solitude and try to sing out with the pain it causes you. For those who are near you are far away...and this shows that the space around you is beginning to grow vast... be happy about your growth...and be gentle with those who stay behind.

Rainer Maria Rilke

Solitude As A Teacher And Discipline Of Silence

Venerable Gyaltsen Samten

There was a time when life began to draw me away from worldly concerns, and i recognised this shift clearly. It was this inner orientation that led me to choose a monastic life. Within the monastery, i was increasingly drawn to lives of practitioners and yogis, and over time, a strong longing arose to enter a long, solitary retreat.

I was grateful for the guidance of my Guru, because without it the spiritual path could easily become a marketplace. Years unfolded in the mountains of Ladakh, held by deep silence, wind, and vast open sky. Solitude served as a form of training; a teacher in its own right. On the path of awakening, solitude is never accidental. Either one enters it willingly through discernment, or life leads one there through breaking the resistance barrier. I entered with trust.

Even when solitude was chosen, the ego did not surrender easily. Silence revealed its restlessness. In the beginning, the mind searched for movement, affirmation, and reassurance. Old habits of seeking meaning through others surfaced repeatedly. The ego craved distraction, conversation, roles, and recognition. In isolation, it staged quiet rebellions: self-pity, doubt, subtle longing for a different life. Living alone in the mountains, i learned to watch these movements. The absence of social mirrors made it impossible to sustain an identity. Without audience or approval, the ego weakened. The real practice was staying. Staying with long afternoons of stillness, with boredom, fear, and longing as they rose and fell.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Suffering arises when we resist what is present. As resistance softens, silence reveals its gentleness. Days became simple: meditation, prayer, walking under an endless sky, studying Dharma, and doing nothing at all. Life stripped itself down to breath, awareness, and the changing light on barren mountains.

Solitude is uncompromising. Over time, it stripped away not only worldly identities, but spiritual ones, too. Even the sense of being 'a practitioner' loosened. What remained was presence, unadorned, intimate, and alive.

During this phase, i realised: it's easy to follow a religion or a belief system that many pursue, because it offers safety net and comfort of belonging. Spiritual awakening, however, is the awakening from all belief systems. These structures and concepts naturally fell away, leaving experience itself as the guide. One is alone yet not separate. The mountains, moon and the starry nights taught me to trust the unfolding of life, unravelling mysteries. I bow to those years of solitude. What might appear as isolation revealed itself as grace. Solitude became my most faithful teacher, opening me to what remains when everything else falls away.

The writer is a Buddhist nun in the Tibetan tradition, formerly known as Barkha Madan

"WASHINGTON SUNDAR'S INNINGS WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT ADDRESSED A KEY QUESTION AROUND GUJARAT TITANS' MIDDLE ORDER. WHILE A LOT OF THEIR RUNS COME FROM THE TOP THREE, CONTRIBUTIONS LIKE THIS SHOW THE DEPTH THEY HAVE."
—R Ashwin | Ex-India spinner

IT'S THE ROHIT IMPACT!

Slams Fluent 84 To Help MI Earn Some Respite With Win Over LSG

Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: It took the 'Hitman' to keep Mumbai Indians' slender hopes alive of making it to the playoffs. Returning from a hamstring injury that sidelined him for five matches, Rohit Sharma led the charge with a vintage 84 off 44 balls as MI beat Lucknow Super Giants by six wickets in a run-fest at the Wankhede on Monday.

Amid chants of "Rohit, Rohit", the 39-year-old, playing as an Impact Player, rolled back the years, smashing six sixes and seven fours in a commanding knock. Alongside the in-form Ryan Rickelton (83 off 32; 6x4, 8x6), Rohit powered MI to a daunting 229 chase, handing the hosts just their third win of IPL 2026.

The 'R & R' duo all but sealed the game with a blistering 143-run opening stand off just 65 balls. Naman Dhir (23* off 12) and Will Jacks (10* off 4) then finished the job with ease, the latter sealing it with a straight six off Avesh Khan.

MI were dealt a blow before the start, with skipper Hardik Pandya ruled out due to back spasms, leaving Suryakumar Yadav to lead the franchise. The result kept MI's slim hopes alive while LSG slumped to a sixth straight defeat, effectively ending their playoff chances.

Rickelton, fresh from a 123* in MI's previous home game, continued his purple patch on a flat surface, racing to a 22-ball fifty. Rohit matched him stroke for stroke, taking down Mohsin Khan with two fours and two sixes in one over, and then lofting Mohammed Shami. His fifty came off 26 balls, bringing up MI's 100 in 8.1 overs.

MI cruised to 71/0 in the PowerPlay and took 23 off Manimaran Siddharth in the ninth over. Rohit eventually fell to Siddharth, mistiming a sweep to short fine leg, but by then the equation was down to 52 off 37, a formality on a Wankhede deck that offered nothing to the bowlers.

Earlier, Nicholas Pooran finally broke his slump emphatically, hammering 63 off 21 balls (8x6) after managing just 82 runs in his first eight games. His 16-ball fifty set the tone as LSG surged to 90/1 in six overs, their best PowerPlay this season.

Mitchell Marsh (44 off 25) also found rhythm, and his 94-run stand with Pooran off 35 balls left MI on the ropes. However, the hosts pulled things back with four wickets for 37 runs in 20 balls, including the dismissal of a struggling Rishabh Pant (15) off Jacks.

A late 68-run unbeaten stand between Himmat Singh (40* off 31) and Aiden Markram (31* off 25) lifted LSG to 228/5 after being put in. It was their first 200-plus total this season, powered by 16 sixes — half of them from Pooran.

MI's Jasprit Bumrah, though, endured another forgettable outing. He struggled for rhythm and finished with unflattering figures of 0/45, including three no-balls and two wides. His second over cost 21 runs. Among the few positives, spinner Raghu Sharma returned figures of 1/36 in four tidy overs, while Deepak Chahar did well to concede just six runs in the final over to prevent further damage.

229 Mumbai Indians (229-4) have registered their highest successful chase in the IPL. Their previous best was 224-4 while chasing a target of 221 vs KKR at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on March 29, 2026.

KK Choudhary

POWER-HITTING: MI's Rohit Sharma hits a boundary on Monday

SCOREBOARD

LSG: M Marsh c Dhir b Bosch 44, J Inglis c Yadav b Ghazanfar 13, N Pooran c Rickleton b Bosch 63, R Pant c Rickleton b Jacks 15, A Markram not out 31, A Raghuwanshi c and b Raghu 11, H Singh not out 40; **Extras: (w7, nb4) 11; Total: (5 wkts) 228; FoW:** 1-29, 2-123, 3-125, 4-148, 5-160; **Bowling:** Chahar 4-0-43-0, Bumrah 4-0-45-0, Ghazanfar 4-0-50-1, Jacks 2-0-34-1, Bosch 2-0-20-2, Raghu 4-0-36-1.

MI: R Rickleton c Inglis b Mohsin 83, R Sharma c Shami b Siddharth 84, T Varma c Markram b Siddharth 11, S Yadav c Pooran b Shami 12, N Dhir not out 23, W Jacks not out 10; **Extras: (lb2, w4) 6; Total: (4 wkts, 18.4 ovrs) 229; FoW:** 1-143, 2-177, 3-189, 4-213; **Bowling:** Shami 4-0-53-1, Mohsin 4-0-47-1, Prince 3-0-24-0, Avesh 3.4-0-56-0, Siddharth 4-0-47-2

Result: MI won by 6 wickets

84 Rohit Sharma has recorded his highest score vs LSG. His second fifty against them is his 49th in the IPL.

82 Ryan Rickelton has posted his second highest score in the IPL behind the 123* vs SRH at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on Apr 29, 2026.

143 First-wicket stand of 143 between Rickelton and Rohit is MI's first century stand for any wicket vs LSG in the IPL.

3 Three century stands between Rohit Sharma and Rickelton for the first wicket — a record by an opening pair for MI in the IPL.

—**Stats:** Rajesh Kumar

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
PBKS	9	6	2	1	0.855	13
RCB	9	6	3	0	1.420	12
SRH	10	6	4	0	0.644	12
RR	10	6	4	0	0.510	12
GT	10	6	4	0	-0.147	12
CSK	9	4	5	0	0.005	8
DC	9	4	5	0	-0.895	8
KKR	9	3	5	1	-0.539	7
MI	10	3	7	0	-0.649	6
LSG	9	2	7	0	-1.076	4

Time for Samson to silence doubters

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

WEATHER 31°C

New Delhi: The last time Sanju Samson was here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, his international career was almost on the brink. Pencilled into the Indian XI only because Abhishek Sharma fell ill before the T20 World Cup match against Namibia in Feb, a deflated Samson walked off after scoring 22 off eight balls.

On Tuesday, he will be back here as the toast of the nation. Samson's counterfeit Chennai Super Kings jerseys will make for the majority of the inventory with the street vendors. Samson has been at the crossroads for much of his career. But seldom has his stock been so high. His turnaround at the back end of the T20 World Cup was an answer to years of doubts over his consistency. Now that he has cemented himself as the biggest superstar in the CSK XI, it's time he consolidated his IPL form to run for a spot in India's 2027 ODI World Cup team.

Both DC and CSK are in the logjam in the middle of the table. The losing team on Tuesday will be on the brink of elimination from the league.

Despite scoring two centuries, Samson has 315 runs to his name in nine matches. As much as he has been the face-saving force for CSK, his all-or-nothing form will frustrate the franchise. But then, that has been the norm with Samson's IPL seasons. If he has to compel the national selectors to consider him for the second wicketkeeper's role, he may have to replicate the T20 World Cup performances for CSK.

It won't be easy though. The Capital has become cooler with rain in the air. The last match at the venue saw Royal Challengers Bengaluru seamers Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar blow away DC for 75. And at the top of the mark will be the lethal Mitchell Starc looking to expose Samson's technique against top quality pace, movement and bounce. It's up to Samson to dispel doubts. Tuesday will be a test of his technique and temperament to play the lead batter.

115 Sanju Samson's unbeaten knock in Chennai on April 11, 2026, remains the highest individual score in the matches involving Super Kings and Delhi Capitals.

Good length deliveries hardest to score off: Holder

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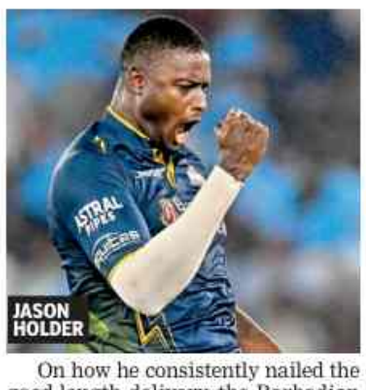
Ahmedabad: With seven wickets in four matches at an economy of 6.94 in an IPL edition where teams looked to maximise power play, all-rounder Jason Holder has revitalised Gujarat Titans' campaign.

Despite going wicketless in the eight-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) last week, the West Indian gave away just 22 runs in his four overs. Against RCB in Ahmedabad, he returned figures of 2/29 to win the Player of the Match (POTM) award and on Sunday, followed it up with 4/24 against table-toppers Punjab Kings for another POTM award.



JASON HOLDER

On how he consistently nailed the good-length delivery, the Barbadian said, "That's what we train. For me personally, it's a length that I spend a lot of time on because I feel it's the hardest length to hit whether or not the wicket may be flat or placid. But again, it's all about assessment," he said.

"You've got to assess what length is best on the wicket. So I don't even think it's a situation where this is our standard length. The conditions here dictate that you could hold on your length a little longer. When we've gone to other venues, we've made the adjustment and that's a sign that we're a really good bowling line-up.

"Like anything else, you've got to practice it. You've got to really put in some hard yards in your training. The length is making it challenging for the opposition to score," he said.

Holder, though, was magnanimous in crediting Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj for their new-ball burst. "Credit to both KG (Rabada) and Siraj. They've been outstanding this entire competition. They've led the powerplay, making it difficult for the opposition. That's a big spoil for their class," he said later on Sunday.

"Very rarely I've seen two bowlers, one in three overs, back-to-back in the powerplay. So it says a lot about their calibre and their quality. When they start, they set the tone in terms of what length works on the wicket. And then it's just a matter for all the other bowlers to follow," added Holder.

SALT RETURNS HOME FOR SCANS

New Delhi: RCB opener Phil Salt has returned to England for scans on a finger injury sustained last month. The injury has kept Salt out of RCB's last three matches, with compatriot Jacob Bethell stepping in at the top of the order, reported ESPNCricinfo. Salt is expected to return to India later this month, the report added.

GALLERY

Antonelli wins

Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli won the Miami Grand Prix for Mercedes on Sunday and stretched his Formula One championship lead to 20 points with an impressive third victory in a row. "This is just the beginning, the road is still long," he said after beating McLaren's world champion Lando Norris by 3.2 seconds.

Indian boxers dominate: Indian boxers continued to dominate at the Asian Boxing U-15 & U-17 Championships with a series of strong performances in Tashkent on Monday. In the U-17 boys' section, Yadav Yash (50kg) secured a 5-0 victory over Turkmenistan's Suleyman Ahmedov, while Karuna Albertson Kom (60kg) impressed with a 4-1 win against Tajikistan's Ali Nazarov.

Diksha, Tvesa drop down: Diksha Dagar, Tvesa Malik and Hitaashee Bakshi slipped down the leaderboard at the Ladies Classic Mauritius, in Port Louis. Diksha shot a 74 in the third round to finish T-21, while Tvesa (73) was T-38. Hitaashee had a round of 76 and dropped to T-58.

Anjali clinches gold: Rajasthan's Anjali Shekhawat claimed the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol at the 24th KSS Shooting Championship in New Delhi on Monday. Anjali shot 240.5 in the final. Haryana's Kanak Budhwar (238.7) took silver medal ahead of Punjab's Agam Ranjit Kaur Grewal (216).

Marcelino to leave Villarreal: Villarreal head coach Marcelino Garcia Toral will leave at the end of the season despite securing a second consecutive Champions League qualification, the La Liga club said.

An brings 'fire' as South Korea triumph

BADMINTON

World No. 1 and Olympic champion An Se-young "started the fire" as South Korea toppled China to win badminton's prestigious Uber Cup women's world team title.

China meanwhile beat France to lift the Thomas Cup, the men's crown, also in the Danish city of Horsens.

South Korea won the Uber Cup for a third time with a 3-1 victory over title-holders China. Top-ranked An put the Koreans on their way, dismantling world No. 2 Wang Zhiyi 21-10, 21-13. China levelled in the first doubles rubber through Tan Ning and Liu Shengshu, before Kim Gaeun stunned Chen Yufei 21-19, 21-15 to put South Korea within sight of glory.

Baek Ha-na and Kim Hye-jeong fought back to defeat Jia Yifan and Zhang Shuxian 16-21, 21-10, 21-13 to seal the triumph.

"An started the fire going," said team captain Lee So-hee. "Ga-eun was in a tough match, but she did it, I'm very proud of her." AFP

Instagram/Lakshya Sen

PODIUM FINISH: Indian players show off their bronze medal

Arsenal ready for Atleti test

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Bukayo Saka's return from injury has jolted Arsenal's attack back into life just in time for the Gunners to dream of a Premier League and Champions League double. Saka scored and provided an assist for Viktor Gyokeres as Mikel Arteta's men bagged three goals for the first time in 16 games in Saturday's 3-0 win over Fulham. All three goals arrived before Saka was withdrawn by Arteta at half-time to protect the England winger, who has been nursing an achilles injury in recent months.

Arteta had one eye on Tuesday's visit of Atletico Madrid, with Arsenal hoping to reach just the second Champions League final in their history. The clash is evenly poised at 1-1 after a first leg dominated by penalty decisions in the Spanish capital. Both sides netted from the spot, but Arsenal thought they should have had a second penalty when Eberechi Eze was clipped inside the box. Saka was involved in that move and his introduction as a substitute helped Arsenal turn the tide to finish the first leg on the front foot.

The 24-year-old was recently handed a new four-year contract, reportedly making him the highest earner at the club. Saka has struggled to find his best form since a serious hamstring injury ruled him out for three months last season.

Arteta, though, is hoping the attacker is both physically and mentally fresh to end Arsenal's long wait for silverware. Saka's quick feet and deadly delivery left Gyokeres with the simple task of tapping into an empty net to settle the Premier League leaders' nerves early on against Fulham. Robert Pires was part of the only previous Arsenal side to reach the Champions League final, a 2-1 defeat to Barcelona in 2006. The Frenchman's wing play made him a legendary figure in north London for his part in two Premier League titles under Arsene Wenger and he believes Saka can have an inspirational impact on his team-mates.

AFP

CHAMPIONS: Inter players celebrate winning the Italian League

Results: Serie A: Bologna 0 drew with Cagliari 0; Sassuolo 2 (Berardi 5, Lauriente 47) bt AC Milan 0; Juventus 1 (Vlahovic 62) drew with Verona 1 (Bowie 34); Inter Milan 2 (Thuram 45+1, Mkhitaryan 80) bt Parma 0. **La Liga:** Espanyol 0 lost to Real Madrid 2 (Vinicius 55, 66). **EPL:** Chelsea 1 (Joao Pedro 90+3) lost to Nottingham Forest 3 (Awoniyi 2, 52, Jesus 15-pen); Aston Villa 1 (Buendia 90+6) lost to Tottenham 2 (Gallagher 12, Richarlison 25); Bournemouth 3 (Lerma 10-og, Kroupi 32-pen, Rayan 77) bt Crystal Palace 0. AGENCIES

Odisha, Bengaluru settle for 1-1 draw

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Hovering just above the relegation-threatened Mohammedan Sporting Club on the 14-team roster, Odisha FC desperately needed full points from their 10th-round match of Indian Super League (ISL) against Bengaluru FC on Monday.

However, the Juggernauts had to be content with just a point from the 'home' game at faraway Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa as they were held to a 1-1 draw by the Blues.

ISL

Striker Rahim Ali had taken the lead for the Kalinga Warriors after the half-hour mark while Bengaluru drew level with Braian Sanchez netting the equaliser from the spot early in the second half.

Getting one point each from the cagey encounter, Bengaluru remained on sixth spot with 17 points after 11 games. Odisha FC's position as the second last side was intact as they have only seven points after 10 games – just four more than rock-bottom Mohammedan Sporting – and stare dangerously at the drop zone.

BFC enjoyed larger share of possession but failed to convert that into goals due to their profligacy in the attacking third. Odisha, meanwhile, showed flashes of attacking intent. Odisha who broke the deadlock in the 34th minute. K Lalrinfela released a superb defence-splitting through for Ali, who beat his marker before slotting home a clinical left-footed grounder.

BengaluruFC/X

ON TARGET: Braian Sanchez

Occasionals vs Vijaya in final

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Bangalore Occasionals will face Vijaya Cricket Club in the final of the KSCA G Kasturirangan Memorial Trophy T20 tournament here.

At the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Monday, in the first semifinals, Vijaya CC edged out Vultures CC by seven runs, while Occasionals outplayed Swastic Union CC by five wickets in the other last-four contest.

Vultures, who opted to bowl, started well, with medium pacer Aaditya Nair sending back the openers in the second over. Vijaya lost some more wickets and were reduced to 56/4 in the eighth over, before Samit Dravid held one end up, and his timely 25-ball 46 helped Vijaya to 159.

KSCA TOURNEY

In reply, Karthikeya KP kept Vultures in the chase with a well-crafted half-century (67), but he failed to find support. Off-spinner Dhruv Prabhakar was the pick among the Vijaya bowlers, returning 4 for 10. In the other semifinal, Bangalore Occasionals rode on an all-round show against Swastic Union. The final will be played under lights on Tuesday.

Brief scores: Vijaya CC: 159/8 in 20 overs (Samit Dravid 46; Aaditya Nair 3-22, Shikhar Shetty 2-29, Dhanush Gowda 2-34) bt **Vultures CC: 152/8 in 20 overs** (Shrijith KL 34, Karthikeya KP 67 n.o.; Dhruv Prabhakar 4-10).

Swastic Union CC (1): 183/9 in 20 overs (Rohan Patil 55; Shreesha Achar 2-24, Naman GD 2-18) lost to **Bangalore Occasionals: 185/5 in 19.2 overs** (Faizan Khan 67, Rajvir Wadhwa 42 n.o.; Paras Gurbax Arya 2-31, Nischith Rao 2-40).

—Jia Khosla

Justina gets top billing

TUMAKURU OPEN

Bengaluru: Top seed Justina Mikulskyte of Lithuania is drawn against India's Saumya Vij following the draw ceremony of the ITF W35 tournament in Tumakuru on Monday.

Poland's Zuzanna Pawlikowska is seeded second, while India will have strong representation at the top with third seed Vaidehee Chaudhari and fourth seed Zeel Desai, both of whom will be keen to make a deep run on home soil. While Vaidehee will meet local star Soha Sadiq, Zeel locks horns with lucky loser Jeetesh Kumar in the opening round.

The depth of the draw is further underlined by the presence of fifth seed Elina Nepliy and sixth seed Ekaterina Yashina, alongside Japan's Michika Ozeki, seeded seventh, and India's Akanksha Nitture, who rounds off the top eight.

Adding further strength to the Indian contingent will be Shruthi Ahlawat, who arrives in Tumakuru in red-hot form, having clinched her maiden ITF title at a W15 event in New Delhi on Sunday. Meanwhile, Amodhini Naik, Pooja Ingle, Harshini Nagaraj, and Jennifer Luikham were handed the wildcards for the main draw. TNN

APAAR CLINCHES IM TITLE

Fourteen-year-old **Apaar Saxena** has won the International Master title after a fine five-week run in Europe. He secured his third and final norm and the IM title in Serbia on May 3. Earlier, he won his first and second norms at back-to-back tournaments in Bosnia (March) and Spain (April).

Karnataka prevail: Karnataka registered a 4-2 win over Odisha in the Swami Vivekananda U-20 men's National Football Championship in Narayanpur on Monday. While Jhonstar Mark netted the opener in the 13th minute, Premish T, Meitram Kangleinganba and Nirupan Gowda H chipped in with one goal each for Karnataka.

Results: Karnataka 4 (Mark13, Premish T 25, Kangleinganba 80, Nirupam 90+2) bt Odisha 2 (Ronk Majhi 17, Pankaj Tanty 83).

On Wednesday: Karnataka vs Lakshadweep (7.30 am). TNN

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HC: Cousins can't marry under Hindu Marriage Act

Raipur: Chhattisgarh high court has declared the marriage between the children of two sisters null and void, observing that the parties fall squarely within the "degrees of prohibited relationship" under section 11 of Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

Justices Sanjay K Agrawal and Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal Friday set aside a Janjgir-Champa family court order that had rejected the husband's plea seeking to nullify his marriage with his cousin in 2018, reports **Partha Behera**. The wife cited customary practices permitting such unions, which the family court accepted, prompting the man to challenge it in the Chhattisgarh high court.

The woman claimed that such marriages — referred to as "Brahma marriage" in their community — were prevalent. The Chhattisgarh high court, however, noted a complete absence of pleadings or evidence demonstrating that the alleged custom was ancient, certain, and legally binding.

'Clean thana' bail condition for tribals & Dalits degrading: SC

Says Such Conditions Are Not Imposed On Privileged Class Accused

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New Delhi: Castigating Orissa high court and judiciary for imposing "clean police station bail conditions" on tribal and Dalit villagers arrested in cases of violent protest against Vedanta's bauxite mining in Rayagada and Kalahandi, Supreme Court Monday quashed these conditions, terming them "abhorrent, cruel, degrading and unknown to law".

The HC, while granting bail to Laxman Naik, had said, "He shall clean the premises of Kashipur police station in the morning hour (between 6 am to 9 am) for two months from the date of his actual release...". The police station's in-charge will "provide cleaning articles like broom, phenyl and other items to the petitioner so that he can clean the said premises", it said.

SC bench said Orissa high court order negates apex court's 75-year-long efforts to guard life, liberty, dignity and equality of every citizen

Taking suo motu cognizance of news reports about Odisha courts imposing the "clean police station every day between 6 am and 9 am bail conditions" while releasing the arrested tribals and Dalits, a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said such orders negate the apex court's 75-year-long efforts to zealously guard life, liberty, dignity and equality of every citizen.

The bench said, "We are deeply disappointed and express our strongest disapproval of the manner in which the Odisha state judiciary has in fact regressed its mindset by imposing such onerous, degrading and humiliating conditions which are ex-facie violative of human rights."

Such conditions far from advancing the cause of justice strike at the dignity of the accused and proceed on the premise of their guilt, which is totally impermissible in law, it said. "We accordingly declare as null and void all such conditions or similar conditions imposed by the state judiciary while granting bail," the bench said and directed all Odisha courts to forthwith delete such bail conditions.

The bench said that assuming such conditions were imposed inadvertently and without any pre-meditated bias, "the nature of the bail condition is so abhorrent, cruel, degrading and unknown to law that it carries the potential to cast a serious aspersion suggesting that Odisha judiciary is afflicted with caste-based bias. Such conditions are never imposed on accused from privileged class of society, it said.

Cautioning all trial courts and HCs across the country never to impose such conditions while granting bail, the bench quashed the objectionable bail conditions imposed on the tribal and Dalit villagers in Odisha and said appropriate substitution of the conditions would be made without interfering with their liberty.

Odisha advocate general Pitambar Acharyasaid the prosecution will take steps to facilitate alteration of bail conditions.

SC asked HC's registrar general to file a compliance report within four weeks.

12 convicted, 17 let off in arms case linked to '93 Mum blasts

Rajkot: A TADA court in Gujarat's Jamnagar convicted Monday 12 people and acquitted 17 others in the Gosabara cross-border arms smuggling case linked to the 1993 Mumbai blasts, wrapping up a 24-year trial during which 11 accused died and six were discharged by the Supreme Court, reports **Nimesh Khakhariya**.

Special judge R P Mogera sentenced two of the convicts to seven years' RI and jailed the rest for five years. The focus of the case was a Pakistan-backed plot which, according to the prosecution, had been hatched at the Dubai residence of the fugitive underworld kingpin Dawood Ibrahim to stockpile RDX, about 150 weapons and hand grenades at the Gosabara port near Porbandar ahead of the blasts 33 years ago that killed 257 and injured over 1,400 people across Mumbai.

"The prosecution successfully demonstrated the extensive international scope of the plot, revealing that Pakistani marine security officials and army officers were actively involved in facilitating the smuggling of these weapons," special public prosecutor Tushar Gokani said.

Supreme Court flags legal gaps in minor pregnancies

▶ Continued from page 1

Additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for AIIMS, however, said rights of the unborn child too should be considered and hoped that the court would one day examine and recognise that aspect. ASG submitted that a baby boy was born on May 2, and both the minor mother and the child were safe and healthy.

The court then said, "We do not find any reason to consider this contempt petition any further. Hence, the contempt proceedings against the respondents are dropped." The male neonate, born after 29 weeks and two days of gestation, weighed 1,380 grams at birth. He was initially stable and did not require active resuscitation but was shifted to neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at AIIMS for specialised care.

On need to amend the law to deal with cases of unwanted pregnancy involving minors, the SC said such pregnancy is often beyond the statutory period by the time the family comes to know of it, leaving the family with no option but to approach judiciary. The court said that if termination is not allowed, then the family could approach quacks, putting the life of a minor girl in danger.

"This tendency nowadays in society of these unwanted pregnancies is on the rise. They don't inform parents on time. By the time a decision is taken in the family, it would be 7 months. It is very difficult...There is a lacuna in the law or tendency in society. Somebody has to answer it," the bench said.

SC: Onus of proving innocence must be on acid attack accused

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New Delhi: Reversing two cardinal principles of the criminal justice system for acid attack cases, Supreme Court Monday said once an acid attack survivor names the accused, the onus will be on him to prove his innocence, and that those convicted should be awarded the harshest possible punishment.

In the criminal justice system, SC has zealously implemented two major principles — one, it is for the prosecution to prove the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt, and secondly, reformative system of punishment aims at reforming convicts for their smooth rehabilitation in society after completion of jail term.

Departing from these two, a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymlaya Bagchi said there is an alarming increase in the number of acid attack cases mainly because of absence of harsh punishment to convicts.

"The only way to deter people from attacking with acid and corrosive substances is to award the harshest punishment and reverse the burden of proof. The onus must shift to the accused, once he is named by the survivor," the bench said.

CJI Kant said authorities must examine whether assets of the accused and his relatives should be attached and auctioned to provide financial assistance for treatment and rehabilitation of the survivor. "Provision to attach properties of parents would send a message to rein in their children," he said.

With solicitor general Tushar Mehta agreeing with amicus curiae Mukul Rohatgi on equating those forcibly ingested with acid to cause grievous internal injuries with those who suffer disfigurement because of acid attack, the bench said both categories of acid attack survivors would be entitled to benefits of the Rights of People with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.

SC to test validity of scrapping 'self-perceived gender' clause

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New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to test the validity of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026, as a bunch of petitions challenged the constitutionality of the new provisions annulling self-perceived gender identity of persons and stripping trans men and trans masculine identities of statutory recognition.

Senior advocate A M Singhvi, leading a group of advocates including Shraddha Deshmukh, Jyana Kothari and Arundhati Katju, told a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi that the amended clauses directly breach SC's 2014 judgment in NALSA case giving sanctity to right of self-determination of gender to the trans population.

"NALSA judgment, which provided for self-identification and self-determination — is nullified by the legislature without removing its basis, which is impermissible," Singhvi said.

Justice Bagchi said, "Do not take NALSA judgment to that level. NALSA said self-determination is a facet of dignity. What the amendment has done is it changed the substratum of law based on which NALSA interpreted self-identification as part of Article 21. Instead of self-determination, it now provides for medical identification and verification prior to certification."

Singhvi said the overwhelming characteristic is man to woman and if one is undergoing hormone therapy to sync gender identity with the self-determined gender, the law criminalises it and hence would deprive them of that treatment.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta interjected and said, "What is criminalised is forceful change of gender through surgery. There are instances where children have been castrated. The law penalises forcible gender alterations."

The CJI-led bench asked whether there are any benefits or social welfare schemes under the Transgender Act for those classified as transgenders. Singhvi said there are no benefits for them but it allows them to have identity cards which ensures their inclusion in all welfare schemes.

SC issued notice to Centre and states and sought their response in six weeks while posting further hearing before a 3-judge bench.

Frame tamper-free rules to check NEET litigation: SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As it has become an annual affair for court to get flooded with petitions for admission to medical colleges after declaration of NEET results, Supreme Court Monday asked National Medical Commission and Centre to frame tamper-free rules to prevent unnecessary litigation, which create uncertainty for candidates.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe proposed that a mechanism be put in place to review the rules every year to improve upon them. Emphasising that the country is mature enough to build sound institutions, the court said that more rigour needs to be infused into the selection process.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions challenging reduction in cut-off marks for PG admissions.

It had earlier issued notices to Centre and NMC in this connection.

With over 18,000 postgraduate medical seats across the country remaining vacant, National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) had revised the qualifying percentiles for NEET-PG 2025 admissions, reducing it to zero from 40 percentile for reserved categories — which will allow even those scoring as low as minus 40 out of 800 to take part in third round of counselling for PG medical seats.

ADMISSION WOES

According to the notice published by NBEMS, the NEET PG cutoff for general category has been reduced to seven percentile from 50.

HC overturns 40-yr-old order, convicts 2

Lucknow: The Lucknow bench of Allahabad HC Monday overturned a "completely flawed" 40-year-old acquittal order of a trial court and convicted two accused in a 1984 murder case.

There were four accused in the case, all acquitted on the ground of self-defence. Two died while the appeal was pending. Allowing the appeal by state govt, HC convicted the remaining two accused for culpable homicide.

On June 15, 1984, Jamuna Prasad was constructing a drain on the roof of his house in Unnao when the accused objected and attacked him and his brother with sticks and spears. Jamuna died on his way to the hospital. HC held that murder over a minor dispute is not self-defence. TNN

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THE TIMES

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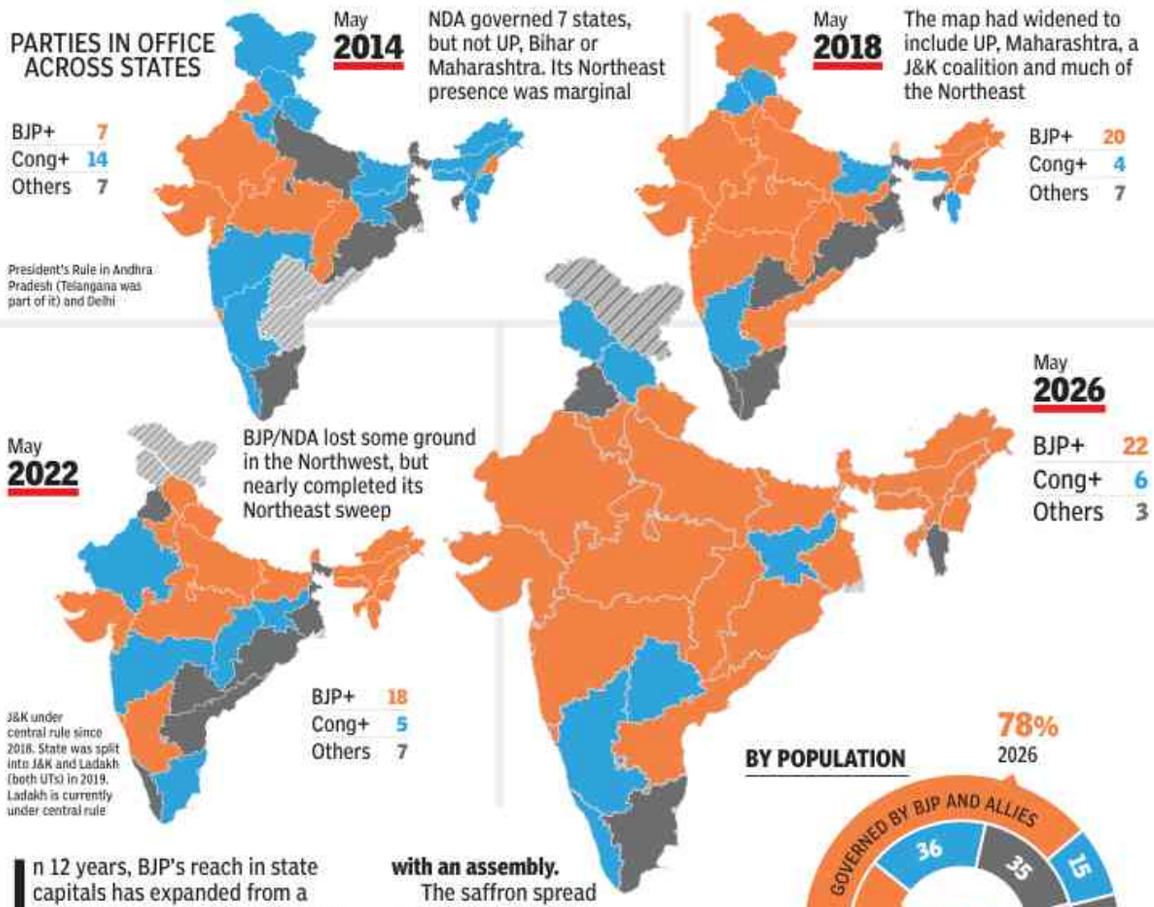
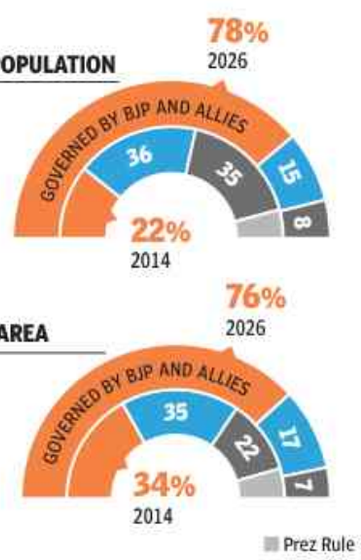
TRUMP ADMIN LIFTS A VISA PROCESSING FREEZE FOR FOREIGN PHYSICIANS, ENDING A MONTHS-LONG HALT THAT HAS LED TO STAFF SHORTAGE IN HOSPITALS 17

BJP'S BHARAT JODO YATRA

From 7 in 2014, BJP has kept adding state after state, to reach 22 in 2026. Congress and allies have fallen from 14 to 6, while regional/other govts are down from 7 to 3. You can now drive from the border with China in the Northeast to the border with Pakistan in the west without leaving BJP-NDA territory


PARTIES IN OFFICE ACROSS STATES
May 2014
NDA governed 7 states, but not UP, Bihar or Maharashtra. Its Northeast presence was marginal
BJP+ 7
Cong+ 14
Others 7
May 2018
The map had widened to include UP, Maharashtra, a J&K coalition and much of the Northeast
BJP+ 20
Cong+ 4
Others 7
President's Rule in Andhra Pradesh (Telangana was part of it) and Delhi
May 2022
BJP/NDA lost some ground in the Northwest, but nearly completed its Northeast sweep
BJP+ 18
Cong+ 5
Others 7
J&K under central rule since 2018. State was split into J&K and Ladakh (both UTs) in 2019. Ladakh is currently under central rule
May 2026
BJP+ 22
Cong+ 6
Others 3



In 12 years, BJP's reach in state capitals has expanded from a modest cluster to a near-national footprint. When Narendra Modi first became PM in 2014, BJP and its allies ran just 7 state govts. By May 2026, that number is 22 — 14 BJP govts and 8 run by allies.

The population shift is striking. In 2014, NDA-governed states accounted for about 27 crore people. In 2026, that figure has risen to 110 crore, or 77.7% of India's population. In simple terms, **nearly 8 in 10 Indians now live in a BJP/NDA-governed state or UT with an assembly.**

The saffron spread is just as dramatic by geography: BJP/NDA-governed states now cover 76% of India's area, up from 34% in 2014.

The Congress map has moved in the opposite direction. Congress and allies governed states with 44.5 crore people in 2014; that is now down to 20.6 crore. But the bigger squeeze has been on regional parties, whose share has fallen from 35% of Indians to just 8%. In terms of states, 2026 India is overwhelmingly an NDA map.

8 helping victims of bike crash hit by car in UP, die

Eight people were crushed to death after a speeding car ploughed into them while they were helping victims of a road mishap in UP Monday. The first accident occurred at 12.10am when two bikes collided head-on, leaving three riders critically hurt. Locals were moving them to hospital when the car hit them. The car driver is on the run. **P 5**

4 kids playing with ducks drown in C'magaluru pond

Four children, aged between 8 and 12, drowned in a pond at Araluguppe, Chikkamagaluru, Monday. Police said they had gone swimming and were playing with ducks. Another boy was rescued by locals and is undergoing treatment. Police ruled out foul play and said an autopsy will confirm cause of death. **P 4**

Act against schools' kits diktat: Parents

Parents have urged Karnataka govt to act against private schools overcharging through branded notebooks, exclusive kits, and in-house stores. Though rules and court orders exist barring such practices, enforcement is weak. **P 3**

B'luru, Odisha settle for 1-1 draw in ISL

Odisha FC, needing a win to ease relegation fears, drew 1-1 with Bengaluru FC in Goa. Rahim Ali scored first, Brian Sanchez equalised via penalty. Bengaluru stayed sixth on 17 points; Odisha remained second-bottom with seven. **P 19**

Rupee closes at record low of 95.09

Rupee hit a record low of 95.09 against dollar, pressured by corporate dollar demand, expensive crude, foreign outflows, and global risk aversion. Authorities may boost dollar inflows, while domestic political gains offered only limited support. **P 17**

SC: MTP law needs to be amended to deal with unwanted pregnancies

AIIMS: Premature Baby Delivered By Inducing Labour

New Delhi: Noting that cases of unwanted pregnancy, particularly involving minors, are on the rise, Supreme Court on Monday said the law regulating termination of pregnancy needs to be amended to deal with them and dropped contempt proceedings against AIIMS director and health secretary after being informed that its order for termination of the pregnancy of a 15-year-old girl had been complied with and a premature baby was delivered through labour induction, **reports Amit Anand Choudhary.**

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan said, "It's not easy for us here. There is nobody who is winning and nobody is losing this. But then we have to take a decision without emotion."

The court had issued notice on a contempt petition after AIIMS, which was asked to carry out the process, showed reluctance to comply with its order and instead sought review of the same.

▶Minor pregnancies, P 20

IN THE COURTS

- 'Conditions cruel and **degrading, never imposed on privileged': SC slams Orissa HC for asking tribals and Dalits to clean police stations** as bail terms | P 20
- SC asks B'luru court for **status report on Darshan's trial in Renukaswamy murder** case | P 3
- Flooded with petitions every year, **SC asks govt to frame tamper-free NEET admission rules** | P 20
- **SC to test constitutional validity of deletion of gender self-determination clause** in amended transgender act | P 20

SC: Onus on acid attack accused to prove innocence

Reversing two cardinal principles of the criminal justice system for acid attack cases, Supreme Court Monday said once an acid attack survivor names the accused, the onus will be on the accused to prove his innocence, and that those convicted should be awarded the harshest possible punishment, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.** P 20

Srinivasan & Vijay Singh to exit Tata Edu trust after Mehli votes against them

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Venu Srinivasan (L) & Singh

Mumbai: Venu Srinivasan, chairman emeritus of TVS Motor, and Vijay Singh, a former bureaucrat, are set to step down as trustees of the Tata Education and Development Trust (TEDT) from May 11, after fellow trustee Mehli Mistry voted against their reappointments.

Trust rules require unanimous consent from all trustees for a reappointment. The departures mark the latest rupture within the inner governance circle of Tata Trusts, the philanthropic edifice that owns 66% of Tata Sons, holding company of India's largest conglomerate.

Srinivasan and Singh each voted in favour of the other's continuation. But Mehli voted against both, a solitary voice of dissent sufficient to bring their tenures to a close. Fellow trustees Noel Tata, chairman of Tata Trusts, and Jehangir Mistry had not cast votes at the time of writing. Given the unanimity requirement, their ballots cannot alter the outcome.

▶Caveats in HC, P 17

3 Indians injured in UAE in Iran drone attack

Three Indian nationals were injured on Monday after a fire broke out in the Fujairah petroleum industries zone in UAE following a drone strike originating from Iran, according to local media reports. Two people were injured when a residential building was targeted in Oman's Bukha along the coastline of the Strait of Hormuz, state media reported. An explosion and a fire broke out aboard a South Korean-operated ship anchored in the strait, Korean govt said. Iran claimed to have struck a US Navy vessel near the Strait. However, the US denied the claim. **P 17**

B'luru prof found charred in car, lover on tracks

A secret relationship between Saroja, a Bengaluru professor, and Ramanjinappa, a divorcee, had a gory end, with police finding their bodies over the weekend. The duo, after visiting Nandi Hills, drove to the outskirts of Jinkebachhahalli in Doddaballapur Saturday where police suspect they had a violent fight. Ramanjinappa attacked Saroja with a hammer, put her in the back seat and set the car on fire. The next day, his body was found on railway tracks near Bidadi. **P 3**

AI crash: Pilots' body flags issue with lithium cell

In a development that could impact the probe into the June 12, 2025, Ahmedabad Air India crash that killed 241 people, country's largest pilots' body has placed before govt a specific, documented electrical failure mechanism that can cut off fuel to both engines of a Boeing 787 simultaneously without action by pilots. It pointed to a lithium-ion battery failing internally during the take-off roll that was documented in the 2013 Japan Airlines incidents, and sought the hypothesis be tested by IIT-B, ADA or HAL before any conclusion on the crash. **P 5**

Winners & Losers

NARENDRA MODI

These results are yet another testament to his popularity. He led from the front, invested considerable political capital in Bengal, a state at the heart of BJP's agenda of cultural nationalism. BJP's win underscores his appeal across regional and language faultlines. He pushed the party's foundational planks assertively, in DMK and TMC home turfs. NDA's big loss in Tamil Nadu may disappoint him, but the unravelling of the DMK-led alliance will be more than a consolation.

AMIT SHAH

He was responsible for the ground game that helped convert support for Modi into votes. Known for crafting successful poll strategies and building winning narratives, his CV is full of come-from-behind victories. Bengal takes its place among the most glittering trophies on his crowded mantle He criss-crossed the state, toning up its organisational machinery, shaped his party's attacks on TMC over 'appeasement' and law and order, and then stationed himself for days on end in the state, as BJP made the final push. For all practical purposes now, Shah is seen as no. 2 in the party. The Bengal win will further entrench his credentials. His claim to succeed Modi is now even stronger

RAHUL GANDHI

He will have the comfort of victory in Kerala. But overall results reinforce his inability to claw back Congress's lost ground. His strident campaign against Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, and his strategy to elevate Gaurav Gogoi as the party's face, over the claims of more seasoned functionaries, failed badly. Despite his apparent discomfort with DMK, and some voices within the party favouring a tie-up with newbie TVK, he chose to play safe. Congress lost an opportunity to be on the winning side.

SUVENDU ADHIKARI

A very personal and very sweet revenge for him. He spent much of the last seven years being hounded by Mamata's administration. His stunning victory over Mamata in Bhabanipur, and a comfortable win from his home turf, Nandigram, in East Midnapore, makes him a strong claimant for the CM's chair. Whether or not he gets that job, he will be a star in BJP's dramatic win

VIJAY

He brought about a dramatic end to the Dravidian duopoly in Tamil Nadu. He achieved in one election what Dravidian parties took years to achieve: a clear people's mandate. He didn't spend years building the party, or sitting in the opposition or in a strong alliance. And he is close to forming govt within just two years of founding TVK. Even MGR, despite his political experience in DMK, had to wait for five years after he floated ADMK.

MAMATA BANERJEE

She lost the war for Bengal — and also the battle for Bhabanipur. In 2021, she had challenged Suvendu in Nandigram, and lost narrowly. This time, Suvendu had challenged her in her backyard, Bhabanipur, and won comfortably, rubbing salt to her injury. She's now lost her claim to be the tallest among anti-BJP leaders. Her bargaining power in national politics will erode substantially. Worse still, her cadre, many of whom migrated to TMC from CPM, will be looking toward the saffron pasture now.

M K STALIN

This defeat marks a huge political setback for M K Stalin. It punctures DMK's claim of having mastered a 'Dravidian model of governance'. Coming as it does after a series of wins since 2021, this result leaves a big dent on his stature in Tamil Nadu, and at the national level, where he was the most vocal critic of BJP. His defeat in the Kolathur assembly segment, to a barely known TVK candidate, V S Babu, is the final cut. Even those who were betting that Vijay would do well, didn't reckon the sitting CM would lose his own seat. And while he'll still likely lead DMK, his succession plan for his son may now face a challenge.

ABHISHEK BANERJEE

He was the supposed inheritor of his aunt Mamata's political legacy. The market value of that inheritance has hit rock bottom. It's not that he was lazy about his advantage. He worked hard, in tandem with Mamata, and was often TMC's aggressive face. Invariably, he'll now share the blame, with Mamata, for TMC's big loss. Yes, he's mostly delivered his pocket borough, South 24 Parganas, saving the blushes for TMC. But, even there, cracks have appeared. He'll, for sure, be a key target of Centre-state BJP administrations.

EDAPPADI K PALANISWAMI

Having just lost an election, ADMK's general secretary may face the threat of losing his grip over the party. After putting up a fight in 2021 assembly election, he had, for five years, kept ADMK alive and kicking, besides keeping rebellion at bay. Being out of office for another five years would make that job much tougher. District level leaders may be less inclined to follow him. Rival factions, especially those led by V K Sasikala and AMMK leader TTV Dhinakaran, may try to engineer a coup.

VD SATHEESAN

He led UDF's campaign. His drive, persistence, and his firm stand against 'communal' forces and power cliques, paid off. He's the frontrunner for CM's post. Major UDF constituents like IUML will put their weight behind him. But this is Congress. So, Ramesh Chennithala, who has eyed the top post for over a decade, and K C Venugopal, a kingmaker in other Congress-governed states, are also in the fray.

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA

He made history by taking BJP past the majority mark of 64 seats in Assam. This victory completes Himanta's transformation — from the man behind the curtains, to a leader who's among the top few in BJP. He's expected to play a bigger national role in the party. What his critics found to be controversial — his aggressive identity politics — resonated with many voters in urban and semi-urban areas. That, plus welfare delivery and urban infrastructure projects made him the only CM to beat anti-incumbency this time.

PINARAYI VIJAYAN

CPM's humiliating loss is primarily his failure, thanks to what his many critics described as his despotic tendencies. He even failed to retain CPM citadels like Payyannur and Taliparambra, both in his native Kannur district. He had won the Dharmadam seat with a margin of over 50,000 votes in 2021. But this time, he had a tough win. His bad days may just be beginning. His leadership will come under scrutiny in CPM.

GAURAV GOGOI

His big defeat in Jorhat is a serious blow to Congress's fortunes in Assam. As state president, his inability to deliver a win in his own constituency raises questions about Congress's connect with voters. He was seen as a promising Congress leader after the party's good showing in 2024 general polls. But, clearly, he failed to win the trust of indigenous tribal and Hindu voters.

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Under his stewardship, BJP has won three seats in Kerala. He wrested back the Nemom constituency from CPM. True, he can't take solo credit for BJP's improved Kerala performance. But results bolster his status as BJP's face. His smart call was to talk less saffron politics and more 'development'. He's already said he will be 'at the service of voters in Nemom 24x7'. This election is the beginning of a long innings for him.

BADRUDDIN AJMAL

The perfume baron returns as MLA in Assam after 17 years. But his party, AIUDF, managed just two seats, down from 15 in 2021. Combined with AIDUF having no LS presence, it's bad news for this super-wealthy politician.

Illustrations: **Uday Deb**

NEW HOUSES ARE YOUNGER, AND A LOT RICHER

	West Bengal		Tamil Nadu		Kerala		Assam	
	2021	2026	2021	2026	2021	2026	2021	2026
Average age (yrs)	54.5	**51.8**	55.9	**52.1**	56	**55**	52.3	**52.8**
Average assets (cr)	2.5	**3.7**	12.3	**48.6**	3.1	**7.0**	4.6	**8.9**
No. of women MLAs, and as a share of total	40 13.6%	**37** **12.6%**	12 5.1%	**23** **9.9%**	11 7.9%	**11** **7.9%**	6 4.8%	**7** **5.6%**
Graduates as % of total	61.6	**64.0**	63.4	**59.9**	61.0	**73.7**	72.2	**71.0**

Note: For average assets and education, 2026 calculations based on 232 winners in TN, 124 in Assam, 292 in Bengal; for Kerala assets for 134 and education for 137 winners. 2021 calculations based on 136 winners for Kerala, 224 in TN, and 126 in Assam

Source: ECI, ADR | MyNeta.info

WORLD PULMONARY HYPERTENSION Day

Let's Unite for Every Breath...

Challenges Faced by Idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension Patients

Dr. R. Bhaskar
Cardiologist, Bangalore

Idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (IPAH) is a rare disease where the small arteries in the lungs thicken and narrow for no known reason. This leads to high rates of the heart to work harder to push blood to the lungs, making it weak over time. As a result, it can lead to heart failure and even death.

The Diagnostic "Mystery"

The first major challenge is simply getting a correct diagnosis. On average, it takes patients over two years from the onset of symptoms for a patient to receive an accurate diagnosis. Many patients are told they are simply "out of shape" or "nervous." By the time they reach a specialist, the disease is often in an advanced stage.

The Burden of Treatment

Even after a diagnosis is made, the journey is difficult. Treatments can be expensive, and many require a strict schedule of medications, including daily injections or continuous infusions. Patients must also adapt to significant lifestyle changes, such as avoiding strenuous activity and pregnancy, which can be dangerous for those with the condition.

Emotional and Social Toll

The emotional toll is immense. Patients often experience anxiety and depression due to the chronic nature of the illness and the fear of progression. Socially, the disease can be isolating. Simple activities like climbing stairs or walking a long distance can become impossible, leading to a loss of independence and a reduced quality of life.

Need for Awareness

Advocates and healthcare professionals are working to raise awareness to help reduce the delay in diagnosis. Early detection is crucial, as new treatments can significantly improve symptoms and survival rates if the disease is caught before it has caused irreversible damage to the pulmonary arteries.

Heart Surgery and Prevention of Pulmonary Hypertension

Dr. Karthik Venkatesan
Cardiologist, Bangalore

One of the least significant risks of untreated structural heart disease is Pulmonary Hypertension (PH), a condition where high blood pressure develops in the vessels connecting the heart and lungs. It can be serious, even life-threatening, if left unchecked.

Many common cardiac issues—such as a leaking mitral valve or a hole in the heart—force the heart to work harder than it should. This creates a "backlog" of pressure, though it is a long journey from the pressure in the heart's chambers to the pressure in the pulmonary arteries. Over time, the constant strain on the heart muscle can lead to heart failure.

Prevention starts with addressing the underlying cause. Treating a heart valve problem or repairing a hole can often stop the pressure from ever reaching dangerous levels. Regular check-ups with a cardiologist are essential, as PH can develop silently before symptoms like shortness of breath appear.

Lifestyle choices also play a role. Maintaining a healthy weight, managing blood pressure, and avoiding smoking can reduce the overall burden on the heart and lungs. For those with congenital heart defects, timely surgical intervention is the most effective way to prevent the long-term damage that leads to PH.

Swelling (Edema) in Pulmonary Hypertension

Dr. Kishore B
Cardiologist, Bangalore

Pulmonary Hypertension is a condition where high blood pressure in the arteries of the lungs. As the disease progresses, the right side of the heart has to work much harder to pump blood through these narrowed vessels. Over time, right-sided heart failure occurs. When the heart cannot pump efficiently, blood backs up in the body, leading to the fluid retention we call edema.

"You've just passed a pivotal flying test with an instructor and now the surrounding dismissed. Because of gravity, this fluid typically settles in the lowest parts of the body first—the feet and ankles.

Recognizing "Pitting" Edema

Not all swelling is created equal. In PH, we often look for pitting edema. If you press your finger into a swollen ankle and it remains "dented" for a few seconds, the tissue is holding excess fluid. This is a major sign of significant fluid retention.

As the condition progresses, the fluid can move upward into the thighs or even the abdomen (ascites), leading to a feeling of bloating, rapid weight gain, or a loss of appetite as the body struggles to process nutrients.

Managing Swelling in Daily Life

Managing edema is a key part of PH care. As a physician, I focus on a three-pronged approach:

1. Medication Therapy: Diuretics ("water pills") help the kidneys flush excess salt and water from the body, relieving the pressure on the heart.
2. Sodium-Restricted Diet: Reducing salt is a game-changer. Most of the sodium we consume comes from processed foods and restaurant meals. Switching to a "heart-healthy" diet with less than 2,000 mg of salt per day can significantly reduce swelling.
3. Elevation and Exercise: Keeping the legs elevated above the heart and moving as much as your condition allows helps the body naturally drain fluid.

"The most important takeaway for the public is that swelling is a symptom, not a disease. A sudden increase in body size or a change in your shoes not fitting can be a warning sign that your heart is working harder than it should. Early detection and adjusting your medications can help avoid hospitalizations. Do not wait for the context of this swelling to be obvious. Any unexplained swelling, accompanied by worry, we can protect the heart and keep you moving comfortably.

Screening Methods for Pulmonary Hypertension

Dr. Kiran Varghese
Consultant, Bangalore

Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) right-sided pressure in the lung arteries is often called a "silent killer" because its symptoms are vague and common. Breathlessness, fatigue, and dizziness are often dismissed as signs of aging or being out of shape. By the time a patient is diagnosed, the disease is often in an advanced stage. Because of this, we must look for ways to identify at-risk individuals earlier. Currently, we use a tiered screening approach.

The First Line: Symptom-Based Clues

Screening begins not with a test, but with a detailed conversation. We ask patients specific questions about their medical history and family history. Are they experiencing unexplained shortness of breath? Do they have a history of blood clots in the lungs? Are they taking certain medications known to affect the heart? This initial step helps us determine who needs further investigation.

The Gold Standard: Echocardiography

The most common screening tool is the echocardiogram, or "echo." This is a non-invasive ultrasound of the heart. It allows us to see the size of the heart's chambers and how well the valves are working. Crucially, it can estimate the pressure in the lungs by measuring the speed of blood flowing through the tricuspid valve. If the pressure is high, it is a strong indicator that PH may be present.

Blood Tests and Biomarkers

While there is no single blood test for PH, certain markers can help us. For example, a high level of a protein called BNP can suggest that the heart is under strain. We also test for underlying causes, such as autoimmune diseases or liver problems, which can lead to PH.

Who Should Be Screened?

We typically focus on "high-risk" groups. This includes patients with connective tissue diseases like scleroderma or lupus, those with a history of liver disease, and individuals with congenital heart defects. For the general population, routine screening is not recommended because the disease is relatively rare.

The Path Forward

Early detection is the key to better outcomes. The sooner we can identify PH, the sooner we can start treatments that can slow the progression of the disease and improve a patient's quality of life. If you have a persistent, unexplained cough or feel unusually tired during exercise, it is worth discussing these symptoms with your doctor.

Changes in Symptoms During Disease Progression

Dr. L. Sridhar
Cardiologist, Bangalore

In the early stages of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH), the body is a master of disguise. Since the symptoms of the rising pressure in the lung's arteries are effectively that mimic ailments as mundane as indigestion or a persistent respiratory viral infection. Many women have described the "silent" progression eventually gives way to a life-altering breathlessness called.

Understanding the trajectory of PAH symptoms is vital for both patients and their families, as it marks the transition from manageable discomfort to a critical medical crisis.

The Early Phase: The Subtle Whisper Initially, symptoms are frustratingly non-specific. A patient might notice a slight "heaviness" in the chest during a brisk walk or find themselves subtly dialing back their usual pace to avoid feeling winded. This is often the first sign that the heart is working harder than it should to push blood through the narrowing vessels of the lungs. Because these signs mimic common fatigue or a lack of aerobic fitness, they are frequently dismissed by both patients and primary physicians.

The Middle Phase: Visible Limitation As the disease progresses, the compensation may not be enough. This is the stage where the hallmark symptom of exertional dyspnea—usually with shortness of breath—becomes undeniable. Activities that once felt effortless, like climbing a flight of stairs or carrying groceries, now leave the individual gasping for air. At this point, the right ventricle of the heart begins to show visible signs of strain, and the patient may start to experience chest pressure or dizziness (syncope) as the heart struggles to maintain blood flow to the brain.

The Late Phase: The Crisis In the final stages, symptoms appear even at rest. The focus here on the signs of right-heart failure. Fluid begins to back up into the body, leading to peripheral edema (swelling) in the ankles and legs, and a persistent, dry cough may develop as fluid builds up in the lungs. The patient may feel a constant pressure or fullness in the abdomen as the liver becomes congested. At this stage, the heart is no longer just trying to work harder; it is struggling to survive.

Treatment Options for Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

Dr. Sanjay Bhat
Cardiologist, Bangalore

In the realm of cardiovascular medicine, few diagnoses are as daunting as pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). Characterized by elevated pressure in the pulmonary arteries, making the heart to work harder to pump blood through the lungs, PAH can lead to right-sided heart failure if left untreated. However, the landscape of treatment has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years, offering hope and significantly improved outcomes for patients.

The Multidisciplinary Approach

Modern management of PAH is rarely a solo effort. It requires a carefully coordinated, multidisciplinary approach involving cardiologists, pulmonologists, and specialized nurses. The goal is not just to treat numbers on a monitor, but to improve the patient's functional capacity—their ability to walk, breathe, and live their daily lives without debilitating fatigue.

Targeted Therapies: A New Era

The cornerstone of PAH treatment is the use of targeted therapies. These medications work by specifically addressing the biological pathways that cause the blood vessels in the lungs to narrow and stiffen. Broadly, they fall into three main categories:

- Endothelin Receptor Antagonists (ERAs): These drugs block the effects of endothelin, a powerful substance that tightens blood vessels.
- Phosphodiesterase-5 (PDE-5) Inhibitors: Well-known for their role in other areas of medicine, these help relax the muscles in the pulmonary arteries.
- Prostacyclin Analogues: These mimic a natural substance in the body that opens up blood vessels and prevents clots.

Often, these drugs are used in combination to attack the disease from multiple angles.

Beyond Medication: Supportive Care

While medication is the engine of treatment, supportive care is the safety net. Regular monitoring through echocardiograms and right heart catheterizations allows doctors to track the disease's progression and adjust therapy in real-time. Lifestyle modifications, such as avoiding strenuous activity and managing fluid intake, are also critical components of a patient's daily routine.

The Road Ahead

The future of PAH treatment is bright. Ongoing research is exploring new oral medications and even potential gene therapies that may one day offer a cure rather than just management. For patients and families navigating this diagnosis, the message is clear: with early detection and a dedicated medical team, a full and active life is more achievable than ever before.

Eisenmenger Syndrome Explained

Dr. Yogesh Kothari
Consultant, Bangalore

The Eisenmenger Syndrome is a complex and serious condition that affects the heart and lungs. It is named after Dr. Victor Eisenmenger, who first described the "disease" (Ebstein's anomaly) in 1897. Historically, the left side of the heart pumps oxygen-rich blood to the body, while the right side sends oxygen-poor blood to the lungs.

Because the left side is stronger, a hole usually causes blood to flow from left to right. This floods the lungs with excess blood. Over time, however, the arteries inside the lungs become thick and stiff. This makes it difficult for blood to flow through them, causing pressure to build up. Eventually, the pressure in the lungs becomes so high that the pressure on the right side of the heart exceeds the left.

When this happens, the blood flow reverses. Instead of flowing from left to right, it begins to flow from right to left, bypassing the lungs entirely. This means the blood is not getting enough oxygen before it is pumped out to the rest of the body.

Causes and Risk Factors

Eisenmenger Syndrome is almost always caused by a congenital heart defect—a problem with the heart's structure that is present at birth. Common defects include:

- Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD): A hole in the wall between the heart's two lower chambers.
- Atrial Septal Defect (ASD): A hole in the wall between the heart's two upper chambers.
- Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA): A blood vessel that fails to close after birth.

Symptoms to Watch For

Symptoms can vary depending on the severity of the condition, but they often include:

- Shortness of breath, especially during exercise.
- Fatigue and dizziness.
- Chest pain or pressure.
- Fainting spells (syncope).
- Cyanosis: A bluish tint to the skin, lips, or fingernails due to low oxygen levels.

Diagnosis and Treatment

Diagnosis typically involves an echocardiogram to see the heart's structure and a cardiac catheterization to measure the pressures inside the heart and lungs.

Treatment is complex and focuses on managing symptoms and preventing complications. While there is no cure for the underlying heart defect, medications can help lower pulmonary pressure. In some cases, a heart-lung transplant may be considered for patients with severe, end-stage disease.

Diagnosis of Idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

Dr. Srikanth S
Cardiologist, Bangalore

Imagine climbing a single flight of stairs and feeling like you've just sprinted a marathon. You shrug it off as a sign of being out of shape, or perhaps a case of pre-exam jitters. It is this first warning sign that often leads a young, otherwise healthy person to Idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (IPAH).

As a physician, I often see patients who have spent months—sometimes years—struggling between cardiology and pulmonology clinics. Because IPAH affects only about 15 to 50 people per million, it is frequently the "hidden" culprit behind shortness of breath and fatigue.

What is IPAH?

In a healthy body, the right side of the heart pumps blood through the lungs to pick up oxygen. In IPAH, the walls of the pulmonary arteries become stiff and stiff. This increases the blood pressure within the lungs, forcing the heart to work overtime. "Idiopathic" simply means that doctors cannot find a definitive, underlying reason for the condition, making the diagnosis a process of elimination.

The Path to Diagnosis

Diagnosis is a meticulous "detective" process. We must rule out other common culprits first:

- Echocardiogram: An ultrasound of the heart that is used to assess pressures.
- Pulmonary Function Tests: To rule out conditions like asthma or COPD.
- V/Q Scan: A specialized imaging test used to assess blood clots aren't the issue.
- Right Heart Catheterization: This is the "gold standard" for a definitive diagnosis. It involves a thin, flexible tube (catheter) to measure the exact pressure in the pulmonary arteries. Only then can we confirm if the pressure is truly idiopathic.

A Message of Hope

While a diagnosis can certainly be scary, the landscape of treatment has shifted dramatically over the last decade. Early diagnosis is the most critical factor in long-term survival. Modern therapies—ranging from oral medications to continuous infusions—can significantly improve the quality of life and heart function.

If you find yourself breathless during routine activities, don't dismiss it as aging. Advocate for your health. Sometimes, the most important step is the first one you take toward a cure.